

Religion Junior Certificate Notes

By Bronte Smith

Section A: Communities of Faith

Part 1 – Community

Characteristics of community

Co-operation - working together to achieve a common goal

Sharing - dividing resources fairly and using them for the benefit of all

Communication - listening to one another and exchanging experiences, feelings, hopes and ideas

Examples of community

- School
- Drama group
- Sports club

Part 2 - Communities at Work

Vision - the important idea that motivates people to work together to achieve a goal.

Leadership - the exercise of power by a person in authority who guides people to achieve a goal.

Service - Doing something for the goods of others.

Commitment - being dedicated to completing a task or fulfilling a role.

Examples of charitable organisations include:

- The Simon Community
- Samaritans

Part 3 - Communities of Faith

Revelation - the way God communicates with human beings and allows them to know things they could not know by their own efforts

Types of Religious Beliefs

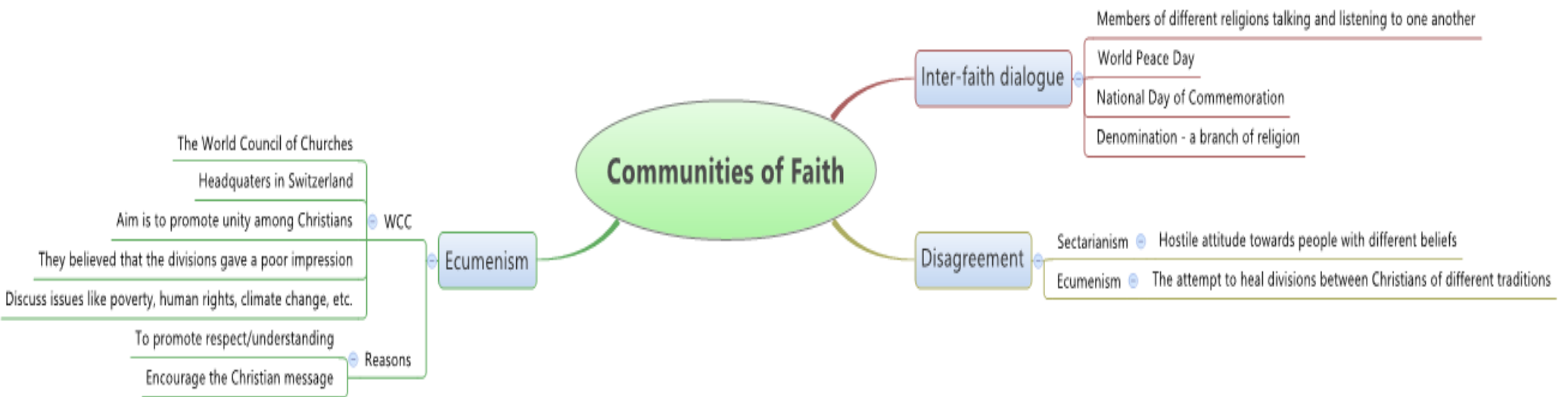
Monotheism - the belief that there is only one god

Polytheism - the belief that there are many gods

Henotheism - when a person believes in one god but does not deny the existence of other gods

Common Characteristics

1. **Inspiring vision** - the powerful idea that first led people to accept and spread religious beliefs
2. **Creed** - a clear statement of the beliefs shared by all members of a community of faith
3. **Moral code** - a set of guidelines that help people to decide whether an action is right or wrong. Example: The Ten Commandments for Christians
4. **Ritual** - A religious ceremony in which God is worshipped and believers celebrate
5. **Place of worship** - a building or place where believers gather to worship God
6. **Calendar** - marks the passage of time and indicates the holy days of a particular religion
7. **Sacred text** - the holy book or scriptures containing the important stories and key teachings of a religion



Part 4 - Relationships Between Communities of Faith

Inter-faith dialogue - the members of different world religions talking with and listening to one another

Pluralism - the belief that all religions have an equal right to exist

Tolerance - acceptance of and respect for the different religious beliefs and practices of others

Denomination - a particular branch of religious tradition

Inter-faith dialogue

Examples of inter-faith dialogue

- **World Peace Day**
 - Held regularly since 1986 at Assisi in Italy
 - Pope meets representatives of other Christian and non-Christian faiths for a day of prayer for peace
 - At the 2002 meeting all agreed on the Decalogue of Assisi for Peace, which states that religious differences must never again be a motive for violence
- **National Day of Commemoration**
 - Held annually at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, on the Sunday nearest July 11
 - Commemorates all Irish men and women who lost their lives in past wars or on service with the United Nations
 - The day begins with a multi-faith service comprising prayers, hymns and readings offered by senior representatives of the different communities of faith in Ireland
 - This event commemorates the idea that all faiths, both Christian and non-Christian, enjoy equal status in society
- **Wario Pretends Donkeys Never Do Care**

Areas of disagreement

Sectarianism - a narrow-minded, hostile and intolerant attitude towards people who do not share one's beliefs

Ecumenism - the attempt to heal the deep divisions between Christians of different traditions that have risen over the centuries

Examples of Ecumenism

The World Council of Churches: Ecumenism Worldwide

- The World Council of Churches (WCC) held its first meeting in Amsterdam in 1948.
- Its aims are to promote Christian unity and to work for peace and justice
- The establishment of the WCC was an initiative by different Protestant churches. They believed that the divisions within Christianity were damaging and giving non-Christians a very poor impression of Christianity and so obstructing the spread of the Christian message.
- The WCC holds a general assembly every 7-8 years. They discuss issues of common concern such as human rights, poverty and climate change.
- At first the Catholic Church and the Orthodox churches were not represented at the WCC, but the Orthodox Churches have been represented since 1961 and the Catholic Church has sent observers since 1968.

Part 5 - Organisation and Leadership of Communities of Faith

Ministry - the specific role a person plays in a community of faith

Examples of ministry

- **The imam (Sunni tradition)**
 - Imam is the Arabic word for 'leader'
 - The imam is the learned spiritual leader of a mosque, which is a religious, social and educational centre of a local Islamic community
 - An imam is a layman, not a priest. He is selected to be the imam because he holds a deep knowledge of the Qur'an and commitment to the Islamic way of life
 - He gives sermons and leads the prayers in the mosque
 - He also teaches the Qur'an to Muslim children

- An imam is called for issues affecting the lives of Muslims such as selecting a name for a new-born child

Religious Communities in Ireland today

Names of Church/Religious Group	Title of Leader
Catholic Church	Primate of All Ireland (Catholic)
Church of Ireland (Anglican)	Primate of All Ireland (Anglican)
Presbyterian Church	Moderator
Methodist Church	President
Jewish Community	Chief Rabbi
Islamic Community	No national leader, each mosque has its own imam
Baptist Church	President
Salvation Army	General
Society of Friends (Quakers)	None

Section B: Christianity

Part 1 - The Context

The Holy Land

- **Go See Jesus!**
- **Provinces**
 - **Galilee**
 - **Samaria**
 - **Judaea**
- **Lakes**
 - **The Sea of Galilee**
 - **The Dead Sea**
- **Rivers**
 - **Jordan**
- **Cities**
 - Jerusalem - Capital city
- **Towns**
 - Galilee's:
 - Nazareth
 - Cana
 - Capernaum
 - Judea's:
 - Bethlehem
 - Jericho
 - Bethany



Key Events in the Life of Jesus

- Was born in **Bethlehem** in the province of **Judea**
- Grew up in **Nazareth**
- Baptised in the river **Jordan**
- Performed his first miracle at Cana
- Met his first disciple at the **Sea of Galilee**
- Taught people in Capernaum
- Healed people in Jericho
- Visited friends in Bethany
- Was crucified **outside Jerusalem**

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Jewish Religion

- The Temple in Jerusalem was a magnificent building
 - Jews believed it was the dwelling place of God
 - Jewish families went to the Temple once a year on the feast of Passover
 - The outer courtyard was a marketplace called the Court of the Gentiles
 - It was here that Jewish pilgrims changed their Roman coins into Temple currency and bought birds and animals for sacrifice
 - The most important part of the temple was called the sanctuary. Inside there was a special area called the Holy of Holies
 - No one except the High Priest could enter
 - He went in once a year to offer sacrifice to God and to pray for forgiveness for all the people
 - The temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70CE
 - Only a wall remains
- **The Synagogue**
 - Jews attend a weekly service in the synagogue on the Sabbath
 - Men stayed downstairs while **women** went upstairs
 - At the Sabbath service a rabbi read from the scroll of sacred scripture and gave a talk about readings
 - Scrolls were treated with great respect because this was the Word of God for Jewish people
 - They were kept inside the Ark
 - A light burned beside it to remind the Jewish people that God was always with them

! Religious Groups

Jewish Court of Law

1. **The Sanhedrin**

- **The Jewish court of law was called the Sanhedrin**
- **This group had a lot of control over the lives of ordinary Jews**
- **Co-operated with the Roman authorities to preserve their power and wealth**
 - **Could only punish religious offences and could not pass the death sentence**
- **They did not expect a Messiah**
- **The Sanhedrin were led by the high priest**
- **It met twice a week at the Temple in Jerusalem**

Four Groups

1. **The Sadducees**

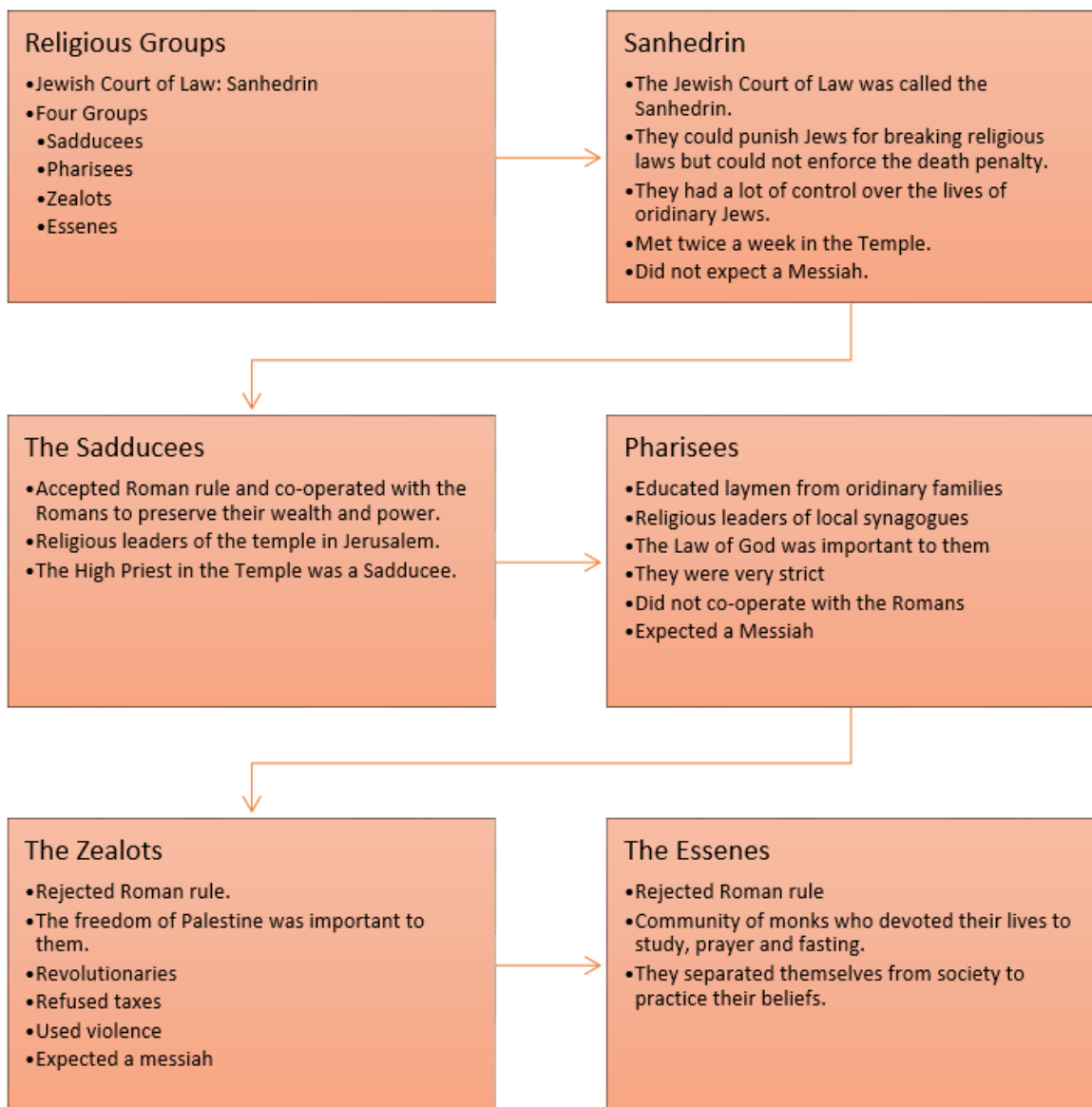
- **Accepted Roman rule and co-operated with the Romans**
- **Religious leaders of the Temple in Jerusalem**
- **The High Priest in the Temple was a Sadducee**
- **They punished Jews who broke their religious laws but could not impose the death penalty.**

2. **The Pharisees**

- **Educated laymen from ordinary families**
- **They were the religious leaders of local synagogues**

- **The Law of God was important to them**
 - **They were very strict**
 - **Did no co-operate with the Romans**
 - **Expected a Messiah**
- 3. The Zealots**
- **Rejected Roman rule**
 - **The freedom of Palestine was very important to them**
 - **Revolutionaries**
 - **Refused taxes**
 - **Used violence**
 - **Expected a Messiah**
- 4. The Essenes**
- **Rejected Roman rule**
 - **Community of monks who devoted their lives to prayer, fasting and study.**
 - **They separated themselves from society to practice their beliefs**

Religious Groups in Palestine



Awaiting the Messiah

- **The Prophets**
 - Jews believe that God spoke to them through the prophets
 - Prophets were holy men and women who carried messages from God. The prophets told of God's promise to send a great leader to guide and rule the Jewish people
 - The one thing that kept the Jews going was their belief that God would send them a great leader to set them free
- **The Messiah**
 - The word 'Messiah' means 'anointed one'
 - It was a sign that they were chosen by God for an important task
- **Viewpoints**
 - Many Jews expected that the Messiah would be
 - A powerful king like figure
 - Would free them from foreign rulers
 - Would bring peace and justice to all.

Part 2 - Evidence About Jesus

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1	113	The New Testament
2	115	The Evangelists
3	120	Three Gospel Stages
4	123	The Synoptic Gospels
5	126	Documents of History
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The New Testament

The word 'Gospel' means good news, that Jesus is the son of God. Evangelists were the authors of the four Gospels. 'Evangelist' means 'to announce the good news.' They wrote the Gospels to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, and enable others to have faith in Jesus too.

Synoptic (means 'seen together' as they were very similar)

1. Mark
2. Matthew
3. Luke

4. John - His gospel is different because it explains in depth who Jesus was and his relationship with his father

They focus on Jesus's:

1. Teaching
2. Healing
3. Death
4. Resurrection

Stages of the Gospels

Stage 1: The Life Stage

- The foundation of the gospels is the person Jesus of Nazareth
- He became a **carpenter** and at the age of thirty began preaching the word of God
- He told **parables** and **performed many miracles**
- Those in authority thought he was a threat and he was **executed** around 30 C.E
- The followers of Jesus believe that **after three days he rose from the dead**

Stage 2: The Oral Stage

- The apostles travelled all over the Roman Empire to **tell** the Good News, that Jesus is the Messiah, and the Son of God.
- After Pentecost, Jesus' followers empowered by the Holy Spirit, wanted to tell everyone about the Good News

Stage 3: The Written Stage

- The **writing** of the Gospels. The sayings of Jesus were written down. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John selected and edited the material to meet the needs of their communities.

Live, **S**peak and **W**rite!

Documents of History

- Both historians report that Jesus lived in Palestine; a group of people known as Christians were his followers; and he was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, governor of Palestine. They both state that Jesus was a real person and did exist.

	Josephus	Tacitus
Documents	The Jewish Antiquities	The Annals
Information about Jesus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus was a wise man• A teacher• He did wonderful works• Many people became his disciples• Pontius Pilate sent him to death on the cross• His followers were called Christians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were a group of people called Christians following Jesus• Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate and executed

Part 3 - The Person and Preaching of Jesus

1	131	The Kingdom of God
2	133	Parables
3	135	The Lost Sheep
4	137	The Sower
5		The Good Samaritan
6		The Prodigal Son
7		Miracles
8		Healing Miracles
9		Other Miracles
10		Table-fellowship
11		Discipleship
12		The Beatitudes
13		Discipleship Today
14		Jesus and Outcasts

1: The Kingdom of God

John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the river Jordan. Jesus felt the peace of God spread over him like a dove when he emerged from the water. Jesus realised that his **mission from God was to tell everyone just how much God loved them.** The baptism of Jesus was important because it marked the beginning of his public life as a teacher and a healer.

Jesus believed that if people allowed the love of God into their hearts, it would be like heaven on earth. Everyone would love God, and everyone would love their neighbour as themselves. Jesus called this dream the Kingdom of God. Jesus' dream was a vision of life that loves God and does good to other people.

The Kingdom of God is not a place that can be found on a map. It is found in people, in the goodness of their hearts. (God help me!)

Jesus used words and actions to help people understand what he meant by the Kingdom of God.

- **Parables** to teach the love of God
- **Miracles** to show the love of God
- Shared meals and **table-fellowship** to help all people experience the love of God
- **Discipleship** for people to learn from Jesus and follow a way of life based on the love of God

Definitions

- **Table-fellowship:** Jesus shared his meals with everyone to show that everyone was welcome in God's Kingdom
- **Discipleship:** Following Jesus' example in word, thought and deed.
- **Vocation:** A calling to serve God
- **Mission:** When people stand up for something they really believe in and they respond to the values of the Kingdom of God

Parables	The Lost Sheep
	The Good Samaritan
	The Prodigal Son

Jesus Visits the Home of Zacchaeus

- Zacchaeus was chief of collecting taxes for the Romans
- People despised him with contempt as they thought he was a greedy, cheating sinner
- Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus
- Jesus invited himself to dinner with Zacchaeus
- Zacchaeus promised he would change his ways and charge people fairly
- Jesus showed that all people have a place in the Kingdom of God and that sinners can be forgiven for their sins and go to Heaven
- Jesus wanted to show forgiveness and teach it to his followers

The Lost Sheep

- Shows that God loves every single person without exception

The Sower

- Shows that people respond differently to the message of God. Those who accept it try to build the kind of world that God wants for everybody.

The Good Samaritan

- Loving one's neighbour is essential
- One day a Jewish man was going on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho
- A local gang saw that he was travelling alone so they beat him and take all his money
- A Temple priest and a Levite pass him by.
 - They notice the injured man but choose to ignore him and cross to the other side of the road.

A Jewish man was traveling when he was viciously attacked and left for dead on the roadside.

The Jewish man was ignored by his fellow Jews who passed by and left him to die.

A Samaritan traveling saw the injured Jewish man and came to his aid.

He tended to his wounds, brought him to an inn and paid for him to be nursed back to health.

Most Jews despised the Samaritans and Jesus shocked people by making him the hero of the story. Jesus taught that everyone was equal in the Kingdom of God and that there was no racial hatred in it. Jesus taught people to love their neighbours.

The Prodigal Son

- Jesus told the parable of the Prodigal Son to help his followers understand that in the Kingdom:
 - God is a loving God, always ready to forgive the sinner who is truly sorry.
 - God's people must be ready to forgive too.
- Two sons inherit their father's wealth
- The younger son travelled and wasted all his fortune
- He felt sorry for his wrongdoings and returned to his father
- His father celebrated his return
- His brother scorned his brother, asking why a sinner was being welcomed
- The father said that his son was lost and now he was found, and that he should celebrate his return
- The older brother represents the people who thought sinners didn't deserve Jesus and didn't know of forgiveness
- The younger brother represents a man who has repented for his sins

9: Other Miracles

- Jesus' miracles show that he had power over nature, illness, even over death itself. **People needed to have faith in order for a miracle to happen. Jesus' miracles helped to deepen their faith.**
- **Jesus Calms a Storm**
 - Jesus and his disciples got into a boat and sailed the Sea of Galilee
 - A sudden storm developed
 - The boat was in danger of sinking
 - The disciples aroused Jesus who had been sleeping
 - They pleaded for help and Jesus subdued the storm
 - Jesus told his disciples to have more faith in him.

11: Discipleship

- Jesus needed the disciples to help him establish the Kingdom of God on Earth
- He trained them to pass on his teaching and way of life to others

12: The Beatitudes

- They show people how to be disciples of Jesus. The central message of Jesus is that people love God and love their neighbours as themselves.

13: Discipleship Today

- A vocation is a person's sense of being called by God to live a certain way of life
- Everyone had a place in the Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God made known through table fellowship

- Jesus shocked people by sharing a meal with the outcasts of his society, e.g. tax collectors, such as Zacchaeus, and the poor and sick.
- Jesus did this to show that the Kingdom of God is open to everyone - devout and sinner, Jew and Gentile.

Miracles

Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

- Bartimaeus shouted for Jesus and asked to be healed
- Jesus healed him because of his faith
- Jesus healed the man afflicted with leprosy.
- Lepers were social outcasts who were ordered to keep apart from other people because their disease was considered to be so contagious.
- By actually touching a person with leprosy, Jesus did something that no one else would have dared to do. He showed that while people may have rejected this man because of his illness, God had not.
- Jesus' actions revealed the love of God reaching out to and embracing people who were abandoned and suffering.

Part 4 - The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Martyrdom - suffering and dying for one's beliefs

Resurrection - the Christian belief that Jesus died on Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning

Jesus and Outcasts

- Jesus was accused of mixing with outcasts because he was friendly with sinners, Gentiles (non-Jews) and others who were regarded 'unclean' or unsuitable for Jewish society. People such as tax collectors, Romans and individuals with leprosy and Samaritans were all disliked and treated as outcasts.
- **The Jewish authority thought Jesus was unfit to be a Rabbi because he mixed with a range of social outcasts**
- Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy
 - A man with leprosy is healed by Jesus
 - He had great faith
 - Jesus showed him that he mattered just like everyone else

Conflict with the Jewish Authorities

- **The Pharisees**
 1. Jesus committed blasphemy by claiming to have the powers to forgive sins.
 2. Jesus broke their religious laws by healing people on the Sabbath.
 3. Jesus was 'unfit' to be called 'rabbi' because he mixed with sinners, outcasts and Jews.
- **The Sadducees**
 1. Jesus directly challenged their authority by expelling the money-changers from the Temple
 2. The Sadducees were embarrassed and furious with Jesus for doing this because he publicly exposed the corrupt practices.

The Last Supper

- Eucharist means: to give thanks
- Bread = Body that would be broken for them
- Wine = blood that would be spilled for them

Timeline

- Palm Sunday - Jesus arrives in Jerusalem seated on a donkey
- Monday - Jesus drives the traders/money-changers from the temple. (Angers Pharisees/Sadducees)
- Tuesday - Jesus is questioned in the Temple
- Wednesday - Judas betrays Jesus
- **Thursday** - The Last Supper
- **Friday** - Jesus' death
- **Sunday** - Jesus rises from the dead

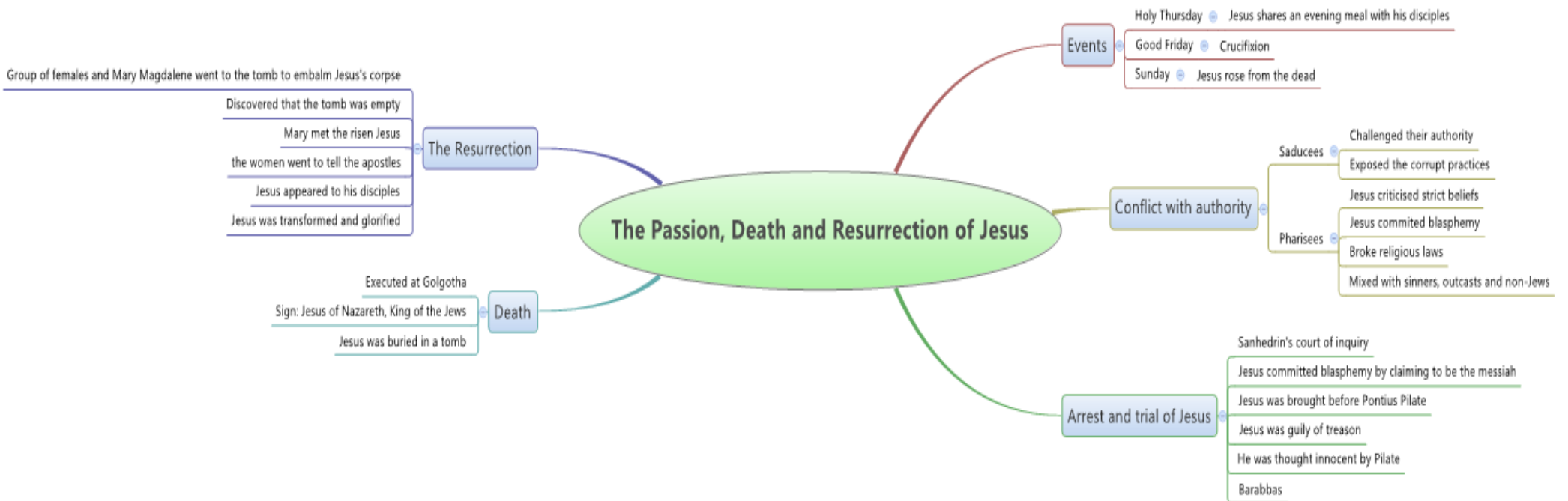
Jesus died in **Golgotha** (also known as Cavalry)

Part 5 - Faith in Christ

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1		Ascension
2		Pentecost
3		Early Faith Communities
4		St. Paul
5		Modern Faith Communities
6		New Titles for Jesus

- **Resurrection**
 - Jesus, a human man, was crucified, died and buried and raised from the dead. He rose from the dead to a new type of life, eternal, never to die again.
- **Ascension**
 - Forty days after Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to the disciples for the last time
 - Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength they would need
- **Pentecost**
 - Ten days after the Ascension, the disciples gathered to celebrate Pentecost, as Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit during this festival
 - The disciples met in a room in Jerusalem, and the sound of a powerful wind filled the room
 - Tongues of fire appeared to the disciples and rested on their heads
 - They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages
 - They were given much courage to go out in public and teach the Good News
 - The Holy Spirit enabled them to tell the Good News as they were filled with bravery and the ability to speak in other languages
 - Christians believe today that the Holy Spirit gives them confidence to follow Jesus and do God's work in their daily lives



Following titles of Jesus

- **Son of Man**
 - Jesus was a human being who would suffer in order to save the people and enter into his glory
- **Son of God**
 - Jesus had a unique relationship with God
- **Messiah**
 - Jesus saved the people by teaching them love. Although he wasn't a political messiah that freed the Jews from the control of the Roman Empire.

The Incarnation

- Is the Christian belief that in Jesus, God became a human being.

The Trinity

- Is the Christian belief that in God there is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Section C: Islam

Part 1 - The Context

Islam - The Context

- Islam began in Saudi Arabia
- 'Arab' means someone who lives in the desert.

Historical and Geographical Background

- Arabs were nomads who lived and travelled in the desert.
- Majority were polytheists
- Arab pilgrims worshipped various idols in the Ka'ba
- Various tribes fought among themselves and travelled from place to place in search of food and water

Part 2 - Sources of Evidence

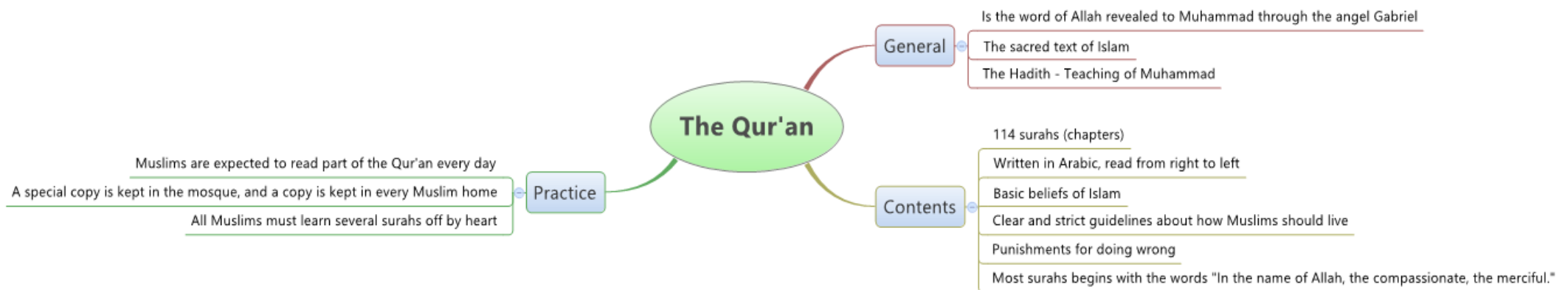
1: Prophet Muhammad

- Early Life
 - He was born in **Mecca** around 570CE
 - **Orphaned** as a child
 - Became a **camel driver**
 - He was an honest and trustworthy man that people called him **Al-Amin** (Trustworthy One)
 - Married a wealthy widow named **Khadijah** and had six children
 - Was a successful business man
- Mount Hira
 - Muhammad was a good man who became troubled by many things wrong in the city
 - Muhammad contemplated about life often and went regularly to the hills to think and pray
 - He was a religious man
 - He came to the conclusion that **there was only one God, Allah**
- **Night of Power and Excellence - 610 CE**
 - When Muhammad was forty years old he went to the hills as usual
 - He had a vision
 - **The angel Gabriel appeared to him telling him that there was only one God** and Muhammad was chosen to be his messenger
 - Muhammad continued to receive messages from God throughout his life
 - The messages later became the Qur'an, sacred text of Islam
- His message was:
 - People must worship one God, Allah, not the idols in the Ka'ba
 - People must listen to Muhammad
 - Everyone must lead good lives, conduct honest business, share with the poor, and care for women and children
 - All wrongdoings will be punished by God in the next
- **The Hijra**
 - In 622CE the prophet and a group of followers left Mecca secretly in the middle of the night
 - **The difficult journey from Mecca to Medina is called the Hijra**
 - This marks the first day of the Islamic calendar and the **beginning of Islam**
- Medina
 - The first Muslim community was established in Medina
 - The Five Pillars became accepted throughout the city

- The Ka'ba
 - Muhammad declared that the Ka'ba would be the shrine of the one God, Allah
 - He returned to Mecca with a big army and the city fell straight into his hands
 - Mecca became the holy city of Islam
 - Muhammad is considered to be the last and greatest of all the prophet

2: Sacred Text

- The Qur'an is the **sacred text** of Islam
 - Muslims believe that the **Qur'an is the word of Allah**, revealed to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel
 - It states clearly what Muslims must believe and how they should live
 - It is written in Arabic and Muslims must learn the language in order to read the Qur'an
 - Muslims are expected to read part of the Qur'an every day
 - It is read from right to left
 - The Qur'an is divided into **114 surahs (chapters)** of different lengths
 - Most surahs begin with the words "In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful."
 - All Muslims most learn several surahs by heart
-
- **Revelation** is the way in which God chooses to make himself known to human beings
 - Allah is the author of the Qur'an, not Muhammad
 - The Qur'an was written to ensure the word of Allah was recorded correctly, and to preserve the message of Allah for future generations
 - The Qur'an is treated with great respect because Muslims believe it is the word of God
 - It is usually wrapped in a cloth when it is not being read
 - And placed on a special stand



Part 3 - Rites of Passage and other Rituals

1: Belief and Practice

Main Muslim Beliefs

1. Belief in Allah - There's only one God, Allah. There's 99 names to describe the qualities of Allah. They include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Compassionate ○ The Life-Giver ○ The Merciful ○ The Forgiver 	Allah	Angelic
2. Belief in angels - God gives messages to angels to pass on to the prophets	Angels	Angels
3. Belief in a sacred text - Muslims believe that the words in the Qur'an are literally the words of Allah	Sacred text	Surely
4. Belief in prophets - Muslims believe Muhammad in the last and greatest of all the prophets. Prophets who passed on the word of Allah include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moses ○ David ○ Jesus ○ Muhammad 	Prophets	Pee
5. Belief in a Day of Judgement - Muslims believe that after death there will be a final day of judgement. Depending on how people lived they will either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be rewarded and go to heaven ○ Be punished and sent to hell 	Judgement	Just like
6. Belief in pre-destination - Muslims believe that God knows what is going to happen. So it is better to obey the will of Allah rather than going their own way in life	Pre-destination	People

The Five Pillars of Islam

1. **Belief (Shahada)** - There is no God but Allah. This is a statement of faith and Muslims say this creed as often as possible every day.
2. **Prayer (Salat)** - Pray five times a day, and on Friday pray in the mosque
3. **Charity (Zakat)** - Give 2.5% of all savings every year to help those in need
4. **Fasting (Sawm)** - Fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan. Muslims make extra effort to pray and read more of the Qur'an, practice self-denial, and give money to charity.
5. **Pilgrimage (Hajj)** Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime. Mecca is the birthplace of Muhammad and the site of the Ka-ba, the most sacred shrine in Islam

Betty Prays Constantly for Peace

The Five Pillars help and support people in leading a Muslim way of life

2: Prayer

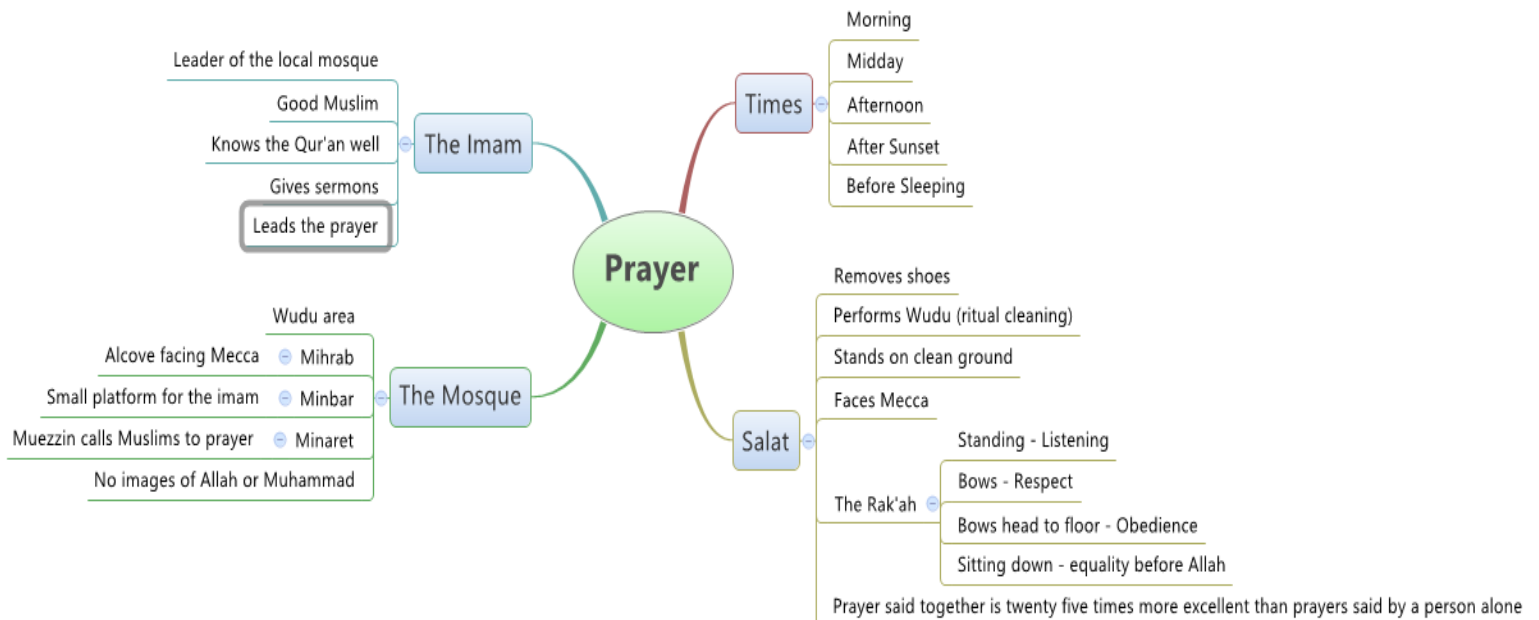
- Crescent Moon and Star
 1. The **crescent moon and star** represent the universe that Allah created
 2. The sky gives **light** to people and the star gives **direction**
 3. Muslims believe that **Islam guides** a person throughout life just as **the moon and stars guide us** at night
 4. Those who follow **Muhammad's beliefs** will be guided and pointed in the **right direction.**
- **Salat** is a formal prayer that follows a set pattern of words and actions
- Muslims pray
 1. in the morning
 2. at midday
 3. during the afternoon
 4. after sunset
 5. before going to bed at night
- Salat is a ritual that can be performed alone or with others
- Before Salat, A Muslim must:
 - Remove shoes
 - Perform wudu
 - Become **ritually clean** by washing hands, arms, head and feet in a certain way. This makes people pure and clean in the presence of Allah.
 - Stand on clean ground, a prayer mat is used if not praying in the mosque
 - Face Mecca
- **The Rak'ah** is a sequence of body movements: a different movement is used for each part of the prayer
 - Standing - listening to Allah
 - Bowing - respect to Allah
 - Bowing forehead to floor - obedience
 - Sitting - equality before Allah
- Joining together in communal prayer is a sign of **unity** and **solidarity** between Muslims everywhere
- The Prophet Muhammad said:
 - "Prayer said in a congregation is twenty five times more excellent than prayers said by a person alone."

Place of Worship

Key Features of a Mosque

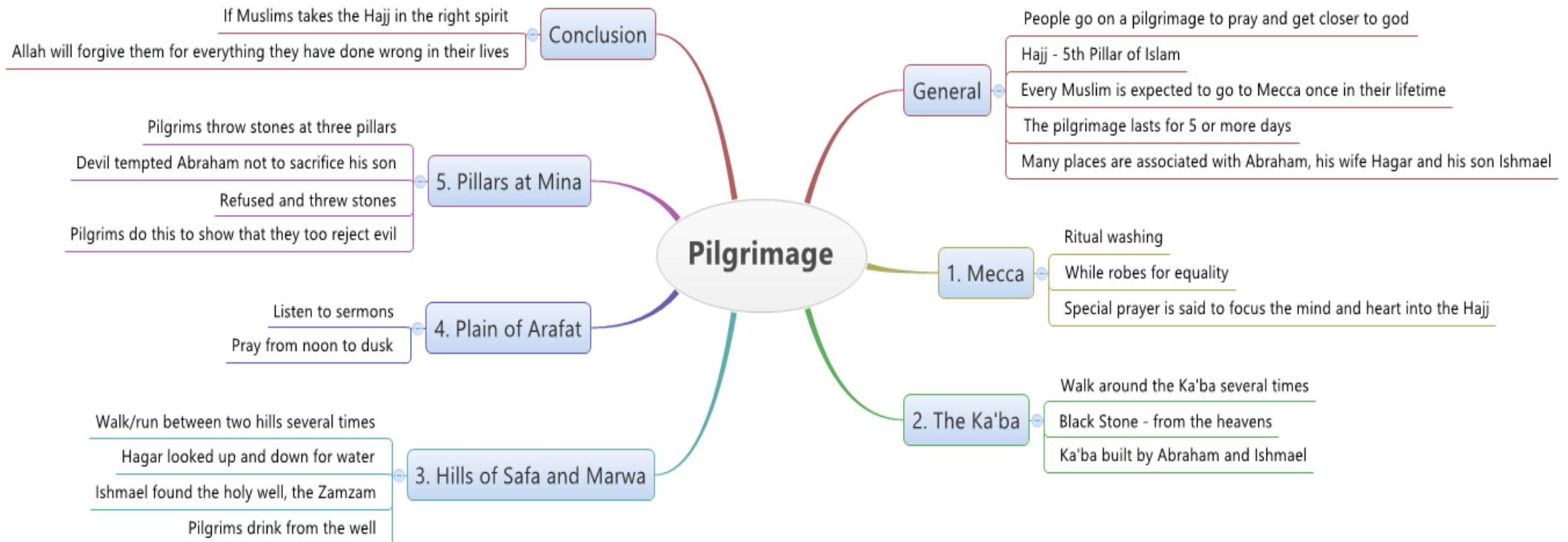
1. **Minaret** - the tower from the muezzin (crier) calls Muslims to prayer.
2. **Minbar** - a raised platform from which the imam gives the sermon and leads prayers.
3. **Mihrab** - an alcove in a wall that points towards Mecca.
4. **Wudu area** - where ritual washing is carried out before worship begins

- The Imam - He is a man whom everyone believes is a good Muslim and knows the Qur'an very well.
- Wudu
 - Partially covered courtyard
 - Everyone removes their footwear and covers their heads as a sign of respect
 - Taps are provided for ritual cleaning
 - Muslims wash their feet, hands, arms and head before going inside for prayer



4: Pilgrimage

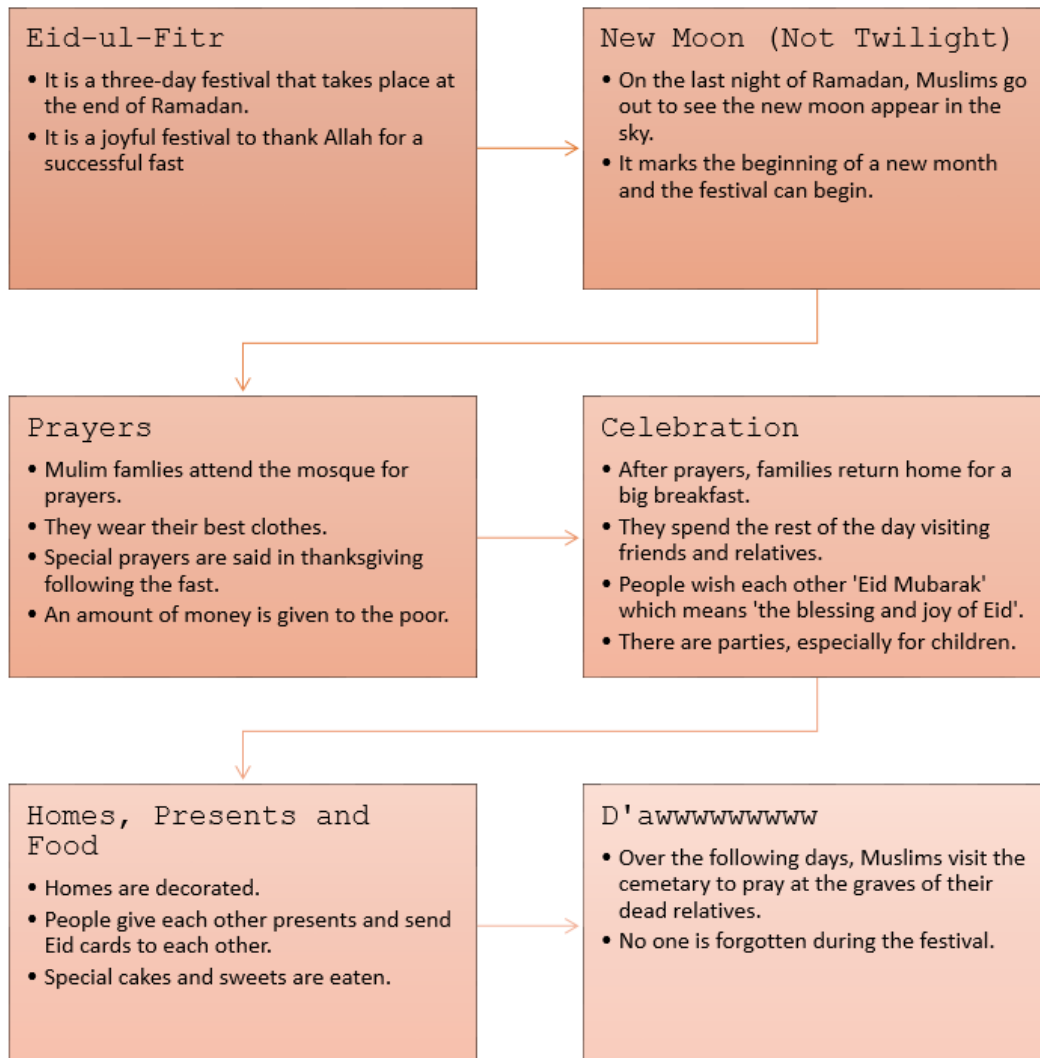
- People go on a pilgrimage to pray and get closer to God.
- **Hajj** is the fifth pillar of Islam, everyone is expected to go to Mecca at least once in their lifetime if they can
- A ritual is an occasion when people use symbolic objects, words and actions to express what is deeply important to them. During the Hajj, pilgrims perform symbolic actions that express important beliefs.
- **Stages of the Hajj**
 1. **Mecca** - Pilgrims arrive in Mecca and **ritually wash** themselves and change into **white robes** to begin the Hajj
 - This is to show that everyone is equal before the eyes of Allah.
 2. **The Ka'ba** - Pilgrims **circle** the Ka'ba in the courtyard of the great Mosque. They drink from the **Zamzam (holy well)** nearby.
 - They walk around it several times
 - Within the Ka'ba there is a stone believed to have come from the heavens
 3. **Hills of Safa and Marwa** - Pilgrims **walk or run between the two small hills** which today are joined by one long corridor.
 - Pilgrims hurry several times between two small hills near the Ka'ba
 - They believe that Abraham's wife Hagar ran up and down the hills praying and looking for water
 - Ishmael found a well called the Zamzam
 4. **Plain of Arafat** - Pilgrims travel to the wide plain of Arafat outside Mecca for a day of prayer. Tents are provided for their use on a vast campsite.
 5. **Pillars at Mina** - Pilgrims throw stones at three large pillars. Later, animals are sacrificed as part of the festival of **Eid-ul-Adha**
- **Mary** - Mecca
- **Kicks** - Ka'ba
- **Saharah** - Safa and
- **Marmelades'** - Marwa
- **Asses** - Plain of Arafat
- at **Mining** - Mina



5: Religious Festivals

- Sacred time refers to days and week set aside every year for a religious purpose
- **Ramadan**
 - The holiest month of the year
 - It reminds Muslims of the time that Allah revealed himself to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel
 - Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset each day during Ramadan
 - Fasting is one of the pillars of Islam
 - During Ramadan, Muslims spend extra time:
 - At prayer
 - Reading the Qur'an
 - Attending the mosque
 - Giving money to charity (Zakat)
- Dhu-al-Hijjah
- **Festivals**

Eid-ul-Fitr



- **Eid-ul-Adha (at the end of the Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca)**
 - Takes two months after Eid-ul-Fitr
 - It is a festival recalling Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to Allah
 - Muslims attend the **mosque** for local prayer and **listen** to a sermon recalling the story of Abraham. He was ready to sacrifice his son because he believed that was what God wanted him to do.

- Muslims sacrifice an animal which is the highlight of the festival. The sacrifice is a sign that Muslims are willing to give everything up for Allah. After sacrifice, meat is given to the poor.
- After prayers, families gather together to share a special meal. Over the following three days, friends and relatives visit each other exchanging cards and gifts.

6: Rites of Passage

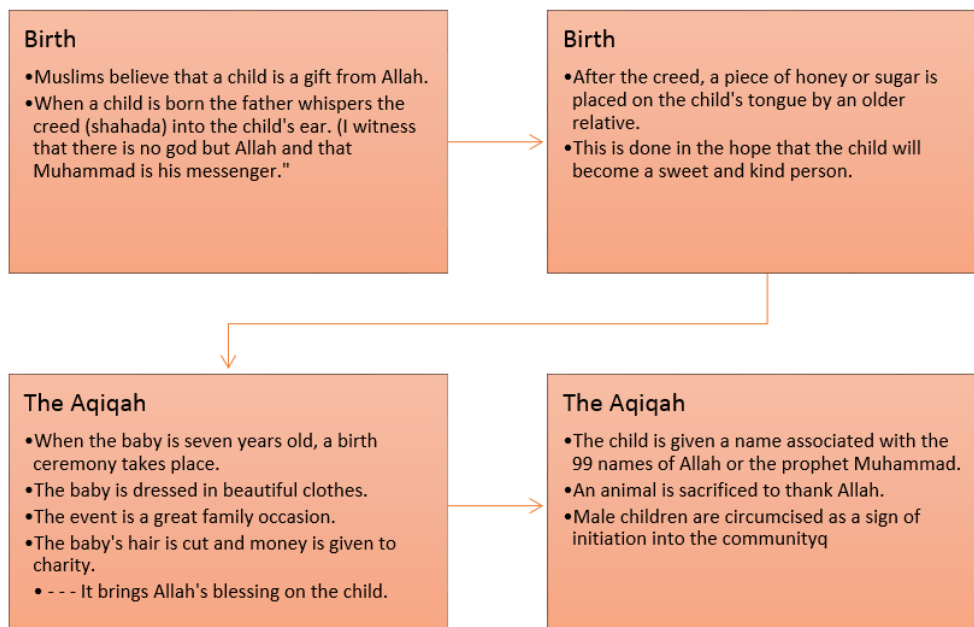
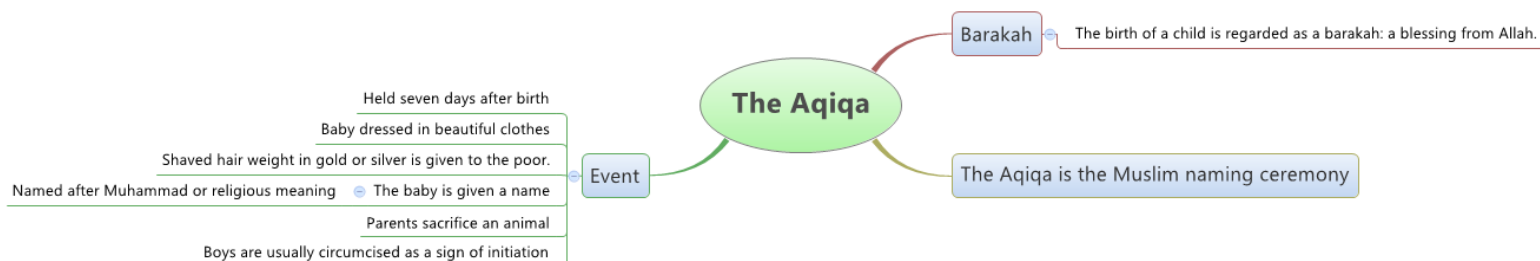
- A rite of passage is the name to a ritual that marks the passing from one stage of life to another
- Religions mark important events such as: birth, marriage, death

Birth

- Muslims believe a child is a gift from Allah
- When a baby is born, the father whispers words (shahada) from the Qur'an into the child's ear:
 - "I witness there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."
- After the Shahada (creed) is recited, a tiny piece of sugar or honey is placed onto the child's tongue by its oldest relative. This is done as a sign of hope that the child will grow up sweet and kind and become a good person

The Aqiqah

- When a baby is seven days old the Aqiqah, a naming ceremony takes place
- The baby is dressed in beautiful clothes
- The event is a great family occasion
- The baby's hair is cut
 - A donation is given to charity and brings Allah's blessing on the child
- The baby is given a name
 - It is a name associated with the prophet Muhammad or the ninety nine names of Allah
- An animal is sacrificed to give thanks for the birth of the baby
- Male children are circumcised as a sign that the child had now joined the Muslim community



Marriage

- In Islam, a marriage ceremony is more of a legal event than a religious occasion
- Muslim marriages are usually arranged by parents who suggest a suitable partner for their son or daughter
- The final decision lies with the young man and the young woman themselves, no one is forced to marry
- When a couple agree to marry, a contract is drawn up and a dowry is decided

The Wedding Day

1. The wedding can be held at the bride's home or the local mosque
2. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to attend
3. The bride and groom wear ceremonial clothes
4. The ceremony is short and simple
5. It may be conducted by the imam or any qualified male Muslim
6. Verses are recited from the Qur'an
7. The imam prays for the health and happiness of the couple
8. Who then exchange rings
9. The couple make their vows in front of two male witnesses
10. And sign copies of the marriage contract
11. Afterwards, there is a special meal or wedding reception to celebrate the occasion

Death

- All Muslims hope to recite the Shahada, the creed, as they approach death
 - "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger."
- It is the first thing they heard at birth, they hope it is the last thing said at death
- 1. When a person dies, burial soon takes place afterwards within twenty four hours. First the body is washed as a sign of respect, this is done by the relatives
- 2. Then it is wrapped in white sheets and brought to the mosque
- 3. Everyone gathers around for the funeral prayers
- 4. Prayers of petition are said that the dead may be judged mercifully and gain a place in paradise
- 5. The prayers may be led by the imam or a member of the family

Beliefs about Death and the after-life

- Muslims believe that the soul of the person who has died will be carried to Allah by an angel
- Muslims visit graves and pray for their dead relatives, especially during Eid-ul-Fitr at the end of Ramadan

Part 4 - Development of Tradition

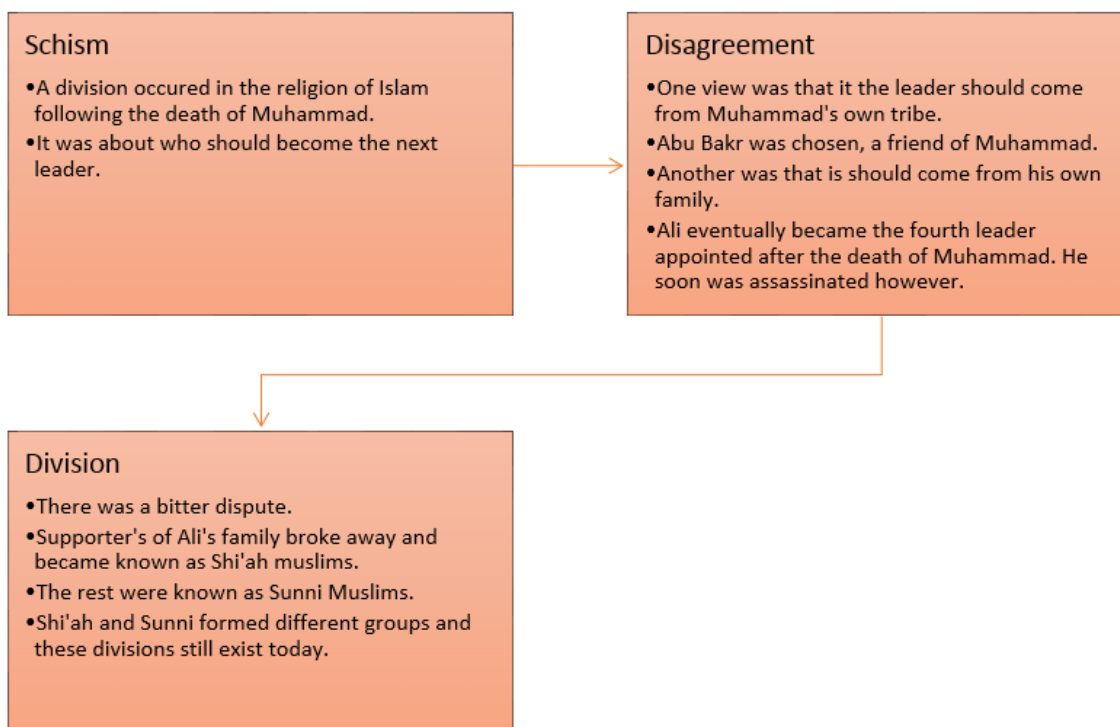
1: Islam Worldwide

The prophet had been both a religious and a political leader
It was his dream to win the whole world for Allah

2: Division in Islam

- A division occurred in the religion of Islam following the death of the Prophet Muhammad
- Sunni and Shi'ah Muslims formed separate groups in Islam fifty years after the death of Muhammad
- **Shi'ah Muslims**
 - Believed that the leader of the Muslim community should be from Muhammad's own family
 - Make up about 10% of the Muslim population today
 - Believed that Ali was chosen by Muhammad to lead the Muslim community
- **Sunni Muslims**
 - Believed that the leader should come from Muhammad's own tribe and must be elected
 - Make up about 90% of the Muslims
 - They believed that Muhammad was the final prophet

Islam Schism



Shi'ah Muslims

They make up 10% of the Muslim population today.

Shi'ah Muslims believe that Ali was chosen by Muhammad to lead the Muslim community. They believe that God gave Ali the ability to correctly interpret the Qur'an.

Leaders who guide the Shi'ah community are called Ayatollahs.

They pay close attention to Ali and his sons. They celebrate the anniversaries of their deaths and make pilgrimages to places associated with their lives.

Sunni Muslims

They make up 90% of the Muslim population.

They regard themselves as orthodox, the true followers of Muhammad and his teaching.

Sunni Muslims believe that Muhammad was the 'Seal of the Prophets'. God did not reveal his truth to anyone else and no one after Muhammad received truth from God.

Sunnis do not accept that Ali and his sons were holy men. They think this belief takes too much attention away from Muhammad and Allah, which is wrong.

Sunni and Shi'ah formed separate groups in Islam fifty years after the death of Muhammad and have been in conflict with each other ever since. They have different interpretations of the Qur'an and have developed different traditions. They disagree on many points, especially over control of the sacred shrine, the Ka'ba in Mecca. There is Sunni and Shi'ah Muslims living in all parts of the world today, including Britain and Ireland.

Part 5 - Tradition, Faith and Practice Today



The Imam

- In Islam there is no overall leader like in Christian churches. Instead, there are the local imams of the mosques.
- The imam is the religious leader in a mosque.
- He is a well-respected layman.
- He has a good knowledge of the Qur'an.
- He has a deep commitment to the Muslim way of life.
- He has a key leadership role in the Muslim community.
- He leads the prayers and gives the sermon at Friday mid-day prayer in the mosque.
- He teaches the Qur'an and assists at marriages and funerals.
- He gives advice to Muslims such as concerns in naming a newborn child.

Islamic Community Worldwide

- Islam is the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. It has an estimated 1.3 billion members worldwide.
- The majority of Muslims (90%) are Sunni, the remainder are Shi'ah.
- Shias are the dominant group in Iran and Pakistan.
- Islam's three holiest sites are Makkah, Madinah and Jerusalem.

Section D: The Question of Faith

Part 1 - The Situation of Faith Today

Factors influencing adolescents' religious beliefs:

1. Family
 - Parents are the primary educators of their children, so they have an influence on every aspect of their development.
 - Parents are role models (lead by example) for instance by taking religious beliefs seriously and regularly attending communal worship.
2. Peer group
 - Teenagers value and want each other's approval.
3. Mass media
 - What young people see, hear and read influences the way they view themselves and the world.
4. School
 - Offers opportunities to learn about the different religions and discuss moral issues.

Changes in religious beliefs and practice in Ireland

- Fewer people regularly attend daily or weekly religion rituals. (e.g. Mass for Catholics.)
- Fewer people display religious art in their homes.
- Fewer people practicing religious teachings about fasting and abstinence.
- There has been a steep decline in the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the Catholic Church.
- Very few religious programmes are broadcast on national television.

Part 3 - The Growth of Faith

Childhood Faith

- Young children tend to believe what they are told by adults they trust.
- At this stage children learn and come to understand the stories, beliefs and practices of their particular religion.

Adolescent Faith

- Young people begin to wonder about life and question what they have been told.
- They strive to develop their own understanding of religion and what it demands of them.

Mature Faith

- Most people have worked out what they believe and value and why they do so.
- They are committed and strive to live according to their religious faith.

Part 5 - Challenges to Faith

Science and Religion

Genesis Story of Creation

The Genesis account of creation is not a scientific account of how the world began because the writers of the bible were not scientists. It tries to explain why life began. It was never intended to be read literally. It does tell us some religious truths though:

- *The world God created is good* - human beings, not God are responsible for the evil in the world.
- *God made the world from nothing* - the world had a beginning and God gave purpose to life
- *God created human beings* - God made us in his own image and likeness
- *God has given human beings special abilities* - God gave us free will and the ability to think and make choices.

Word Views

Materialism - Poses a challenge to religious faith

Materialism - the world view that includes only physical and measurable things and rules out the possibility of anything spiritual or invisible could pose a challenge to the religious faith of a person who considers the soul as most important; putting an emphasis on material things such as cars, money etc. could distract a person from facing questions about the meaning of life etc.

Secularism - the view that the state, morals, education etc. should be independent of religion could pose a challenge to the pastoral activities of a community of faith etc.

Libertarianism holds the view that people should be free to practice their religion as they see fit; the state should have no influence on the moral choices of its citizens; morality should be a private matter; everyone should be free to do as they choose, so long as they don't interfere with the equal freedom of others etc.

Religious fundamentalism holds the view that the teachings of a particular religion should be the only guide in society with complete intolerance of other views; religious laws should be state laws etc.

Challenges to Faith

Reasons for belief in God

- Existence of the world (it didn't merely happen by itself)
- Evidence of order and design (it could not have happened by accident)
- Earth's position relative to the sun

Beliefs

- Fundamentalism
 - The view that a religious text should be taken literally
 - set of beliefs that denies religious claims
 - Secularism is good, religion is a barrier to progress
- Humanism
 - There's no need to believe in God
 - Morality can be decided by human reason alone
 - Religious people disagree
 - Religion can be a guide to living a good life
 - A great source of hope in people's lives
- Secularism
 - the idea that religion should have no direct influence on people's everyday lives

Galileo

- Most people believed that the universe revolved around Earth (Aristotle's ideas)
- Galileo Galilei used the newly invented telescope to study planet movement
- He claimed that Aristotle was wrong and that the Earth revolves around the sun
- The church told Galileo to deny his beliefs
- Under the threat of torture, Galileo was forced to recant his beliefs
- The church later apologised
- It encouraged the view of Rel vs Sci

Evolution

- The Origin of Species
 - Charles Darwin
 - The Descent of Man
 - He put forward the belief of natural selection
 - His work challenged the literal reading of Genesis
 - Later some religious people came to accept his theory
- Pope John Paul II recognised that evidence indicated his theories to be true
- Human body is a product of evolution, each individual is made by God

Common points/differences

- The search for truth/understanding
- Religion is believed while science is proven

The meaning of the creation story

- God created the world from nothing
- Humans brought evil
 - God's creation is good
- God gave humans a special place in creation as acting as stewards of the Earth

Martin Luther King

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 15th 1929 and died on April 4th 1968• A man of deep religious faith• Wanted equal rights for all people - black and white• A committed Christian, Baptist minister• Civil rights leader in the U.S.A	Start
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rosa Parks refused to give her seat to a white person on the bus• This sparked protest and black people began to protest for rights• The leader of this protest was MLK	Cause
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Luther King said that racial prejudice was wrong• He wanted change peacefully• He organised sit petitions, sit-ins, and demonstrations (non-violent protest)	Protests
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "We must meet hatred with love."• Received threatening phone calls and letters• On one occasion their house was bombed• Luther's strong faith in God gave King the courage to carry on no matter what happened.	Faith
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awarded the Nobel prize for peace	End

Essays

Religion and science have points in common and points of difference in their understanding of creation.

Outline **one** point in common and **one** point of difference. (2006)

Example:

Common: The search for meaning/understanding.

Difference: Science is proved while religion is believed.

One point in common between religion and science is about the world's creation is the search for meaning and understanding. People both use religion and science to receive a better understanding of the world in their lives and use it for meaning.

Galileo and Darwin introduced new theories about the world. Galileo stated that the Earth revolved around the sun while Darwin said that humans evolved through a process of natural selection. They faced harsh criticism as the church and people denied their ideas. Later on, people have accepted these ideas along with the church. Pope John Paul II recognised that evidence showed that evolution is true.

Religious people now know not to take religious texts as literally. People see the story of creation as a meaning for life and why life is as it is while science explains how life is made. Religious people see the story of creation as an explanation about God. They believe that humans are stewards in the world for god and that his creation is good. Religion and science are a means of understanding the world better and that is one point they share in common.

One point of difference is how people accept the facts. Science is proved while religion is believed. Galileo had to prove his planet orbiting theory with the use of a telescope while evidence was shown for Darwin's natural selection theory. Religion however depends on the faith of sacred texts. People believe and have faith in what was written in text and cannot prove if it is real or not. Thus, the difference between religion and science is the means of believing the information. Science is proved while religion is believed.

Religious people believe that God created humanity in creation and take it not so literally in this era. People of science believe that God didn't literally create humans as they are a result of evolution.

Section E: The Celebration of Faith

Part 1 - The World of Ritual

Sacredness - the sense that a person, place or thing should be treated with the utmost care and respect

Place of worship - either a building or an outdoor site where members of a particular religion express their beliefs through prayer and ritual

Places of Worship in Christianity

1. Non-conformist Christians (e.g. Presbyterians) worship in simple buildings that are plainly decorated. The **pulpit** is the focal point of the building because non-conformist worship emphasises on listening to the Word of God
2. Catholic and Orthodox churches are more ornate, with paintings, statues, stained-glass windows and shrines. Although the pulpit is important, the **altar** is the focal point.
3. Orthodox churches have few seats (most worshippers are expected to stand) and a feature called an **iconostasis**. This is a screen, decorated with pictures, that separates the main part of the church from the sanctuary (the altar area).

The Liturgical Year

The liturgical year is the annual journey through religious rituals in which Christians

- Recall events in the life of Jesus Christ and the beginnings of the Christian religion
- Celebrate Jesus living in his church today
- Are invited to grow closer to him in worship

Purple - Penance and fasting

White/Gold - Light and joy

Red - Goodness and strength

Green - Growth and hope

Advent

- Starts the liturgical year
- It is a four-week period leading up to Christmas
- Christians reflect on their lives and prepare to celebrate Jesus's birth

Christmas

- Celebrates the birth of Jesus
- It includes the feast of the Epiphany (which commemorates the Magi, or wise men, worshipping the infant Jesus)

Ordinary Time

- Covers 60% of the Liturgical Year

Lent

- A time of preparation for Easter.
- It lasts forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday.
- It involves prayer, fasting and doing charitable works.

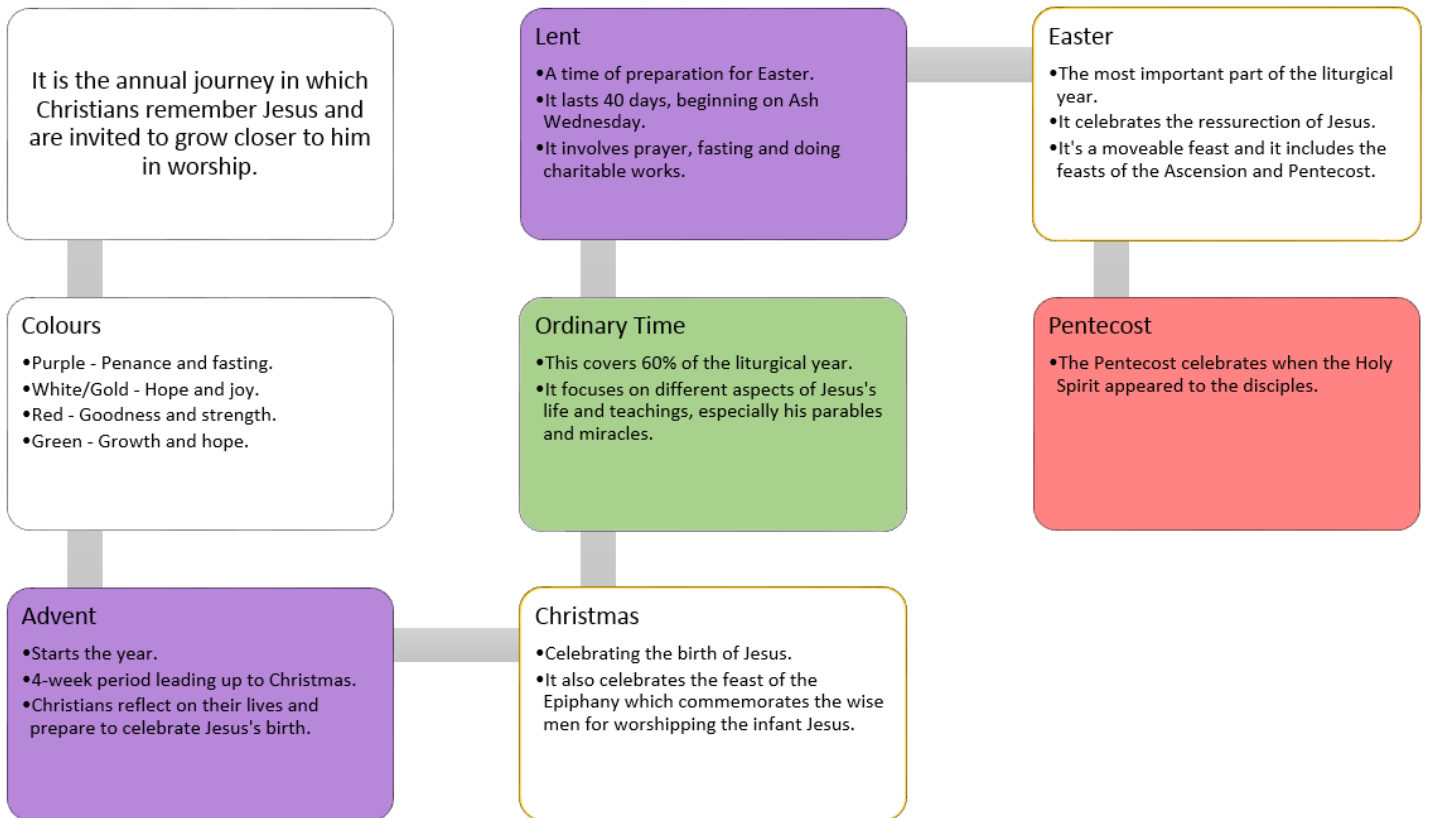
Easter

- The most important part of the liturgical year.
- Represents when Jesus rose from the dead.

Pentecost

- When the Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples.

The Liturgical Year



Pilgrimage

Learn both the names of the places because often the exam papers asks you something like: name a place of religious importance in Ireland that isn't Lough Derg. Answer: **Croagh Patrick**.
I would also learn both, just incase!

Croagh Patrick	Lough Derg
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place of pilgrimage in Co. Mayo in the west of Ireland. • Ireland's patron saint has supposedly climbed the mountain to pray and fast during Lent • They kneel and pray where Patrick prayed and attend Mass on the summit • Many pilgrims walk in bare feet as an extra penance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the middle of Lough Derg in Co. Donegal • St. Patrick has been believed to have paid frequent visits to the island to pray and fast
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Rounds at St. Patrick's Statue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrims do the 'rounds' by walking around sacred objects or places. • Also praying 'Our Fathers' Climbing the Reek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People pray silently and support each other on the way up Mass at the Summit The Descent 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Stations Confession Mass Prayer

Croagh Patrick

General

- Croagh Patrick is a place of pilgrimage in Co. Mayo in the west of Ireland.
- St. Patrick has supposedly prayed and fasted on the mountain. Pilgrims follow his footsteps on 'Pilgrimage Sunday' at the end of July each year. They kneel and pray where Patrick prayed and attend Mass on the summit.
- Many travel in their bare feet as a penance.

The Rounds at St. Patrick's statue

- The pilgrimage begins at the foot of the mountain beside the statue of St. Patrick.
- Here, pilgrims do 'the rounds' while praying a set number of 'Our Fathers' and 'Hail Mary's'.
- A round is a circular walk around a sacred object or place. Seven rounds are undertaken at this stage.

Climbing the Reek

- Then the climb begins - it can take two hours or more to reach the summit.
- People pray silently and support each other as they make their way up.
- The path is four kilometres long and is steep and covered in loose stone near the top.

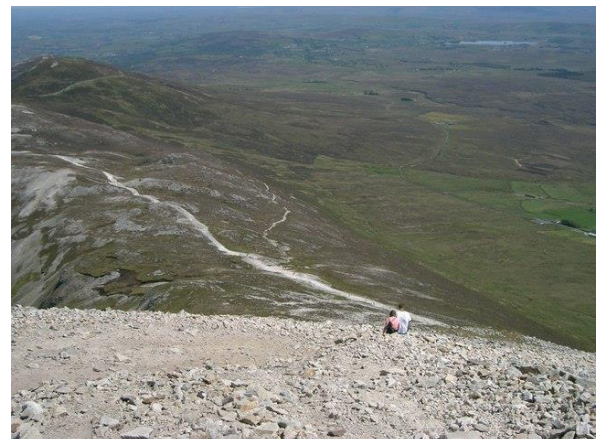
Mass at the Summit

- At the very top there is a church. All the building materials used in its construction were carried up by a team of men and donkeys in the past.
- Pilgrims attend confession and attend Mass on top of Croagh Patrick.

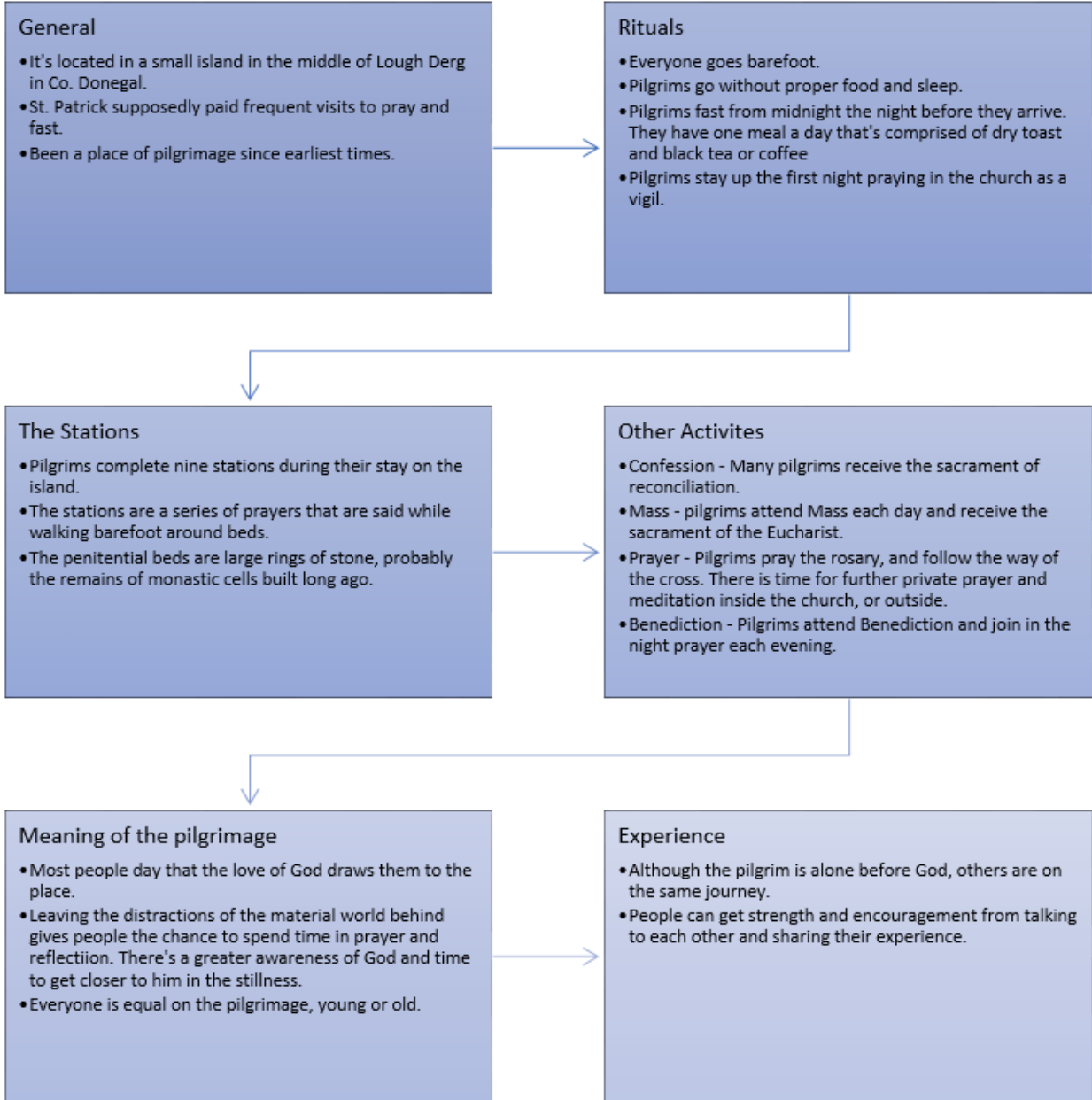
The Descent

- Pilgrims endure the the hardship of the climb and the steep descent downwards in order to follow St. Patrick.
- He made the place holy by his presence.
- Christians have felt drawn to it as a place of prayer ever since.

Croagh Patrick picture~



Lough Derg



Part 2 - The Experience of Worship

Worship - Involves any action by which people: engage in a relationship with God; show that they recognise the importance of God as creator and sustainer of the universe; respond to God through prayer and ritual.

Ritual - a formal religious ceremony, approved by religious authorities, which gives a regular pattern to people's worship of God

Sacrament means 'holy mystery'

1. Baptism - birth
2. Confirmation - growth to maturity
3. Eucharist - Living and sharing with others
4. Reconciliation - failure and forgiveness
5. Matrimony - Marriage and family
6. Holy orders - sacred ministry
7. Anointing - illness, healing and death

Part 3 - Worship as a Response to Mystery

Wonder - a feeling of awe we experience when we encounter something extraordinary or profound


Mystery - a question or experience that raises matters so deep and profound that it surpasses our human capacity to comprehend and master fully

Revelation - God revealing himself to human beings.

Part 4 - Sign and Symbol

Sign - A concrete image, word or gesture that points that points beyond itself but only has one fixed, clear and unambiguous meaning, e.g. a red light at a road junction just means 'stop.'

Symbol - A concrete image, word or gesture that points beyond itself but has more than one meaning and so is richer in content than a sign, e.g. a national flag such as the Irish tricolour

Islam	Crescent Moon and Star 	Muslims say that Islam guides a person's life just as the moon and stars guide a traveller at night in the desert. This symbol on a country's flag often indicates that it is a Muslim state.
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Icons

- Icon comes from the Greek word for 'image'
- An icon is a richly decorated painting of Jesus, Mary, a saint, an angel or a combination of these religious figures
- They have an important place in worship in Orthodox churches.
- An icon is a religious symbol and points to another reality beyond itself.
- The icons are believed to hold the spirits of the person it represents. Thus they are sacred and treated with great respect.

Part 5 - Prayer

Prayer - Communication from the heart between human beings and God. Two elements: giving thanks and praise to God; and seeking help and forgiveness from God. It can either be formal or informal.

Personal prayer - praying alone to God

Communal prayer - praying to God in the company of others

Meditation - silent prayer where one calms one's body to achieve inner quiet before reflecting on some experience or sacred text

Contemplation - the highest form of meditation, involving no words at all, just a sense of being in union with God

Six Types of Prayer

1. **Adoration:** a sense of mystery and wonder
2. **Intercession:** a love for other people and a wish to help them
3. **Petition:** Awareness of our own needs
4. **Contribution:** a realisation of where we have gone wrong in our lives and a desire to do better in the future
5. **Protection:** a sense of the power of evil and an awareness of the suffering it causes, and of our need for the strength that only God can give
6. **Thanksgiving:** a deep gratitude to God for all those people and things that are important to use

Islam

- According to the Qur'an, a Muslim must pray five times each day:
 1. Dawn
 2. Noon
 3. Mid-afternoon
 4. Sunset
 5. Evening
- In Muslim countries the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer
- Attendance at Friday prayer is compulsory
- Men and women worship separately
- On arrival to the mosque, Muslims remove their shoes, put on skullcaps and perform **wudu** (ritual washing) to prepare their minds and bodies.
- Kneeling on mats, they face the direction of Mecca
- Gestures
 - Standing - alertness to the words of Allah
 - Bowing - to demonstrate love and respect for Allah
 - Prostration - to show surrender to Allah
 - Sitting - to indicate tranquillity and acceptance of the will of Allah

Section F: Introduction to Morality

Part 1 - Introduction to Morality

Morality - a set of beliefs or standards that offer us guidance on whether an action is the right or wrong thing to do

Freedom - our capacity to choose whether to do one thing or another

Influence - any factor that affects the choices we make

Socialisation - refers to the process by which people acquire their values and learn how to behave towards others. *Influences* include: family, friends, school, religion and the media.

Part 2 - Sources of Morality

Moral vision - a person's outlook on life, based on his/her values, that motivates him/her to think and act in certain ways. A moral vision may be either religious or non-religious.

Authority - any source of inspiration and guidance to live a good life

The moral vision of Judaism

1. I, the Lord, am your God; you shall have no other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honour your father and mother.
5. You shall not commit murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Part 3 - Growing in Morality

Moral growth - the process by which we acquire the knowledge of what is right and wrong and develop the ability to distinguish between them.

Conscience - the ability to apply our values to a particular moral problem and make a decision about the right thing to do.

Stewardship = Taking care of the world.

Stewardship Example

Mother Teresa is an example as she's a Christian nun who took care of the dying and the poor.

- Became a Catholic nun.
- Asked permission to work with the poor in the slums of Kolkata.
- Trained to be a nurse and went to Kolkata in 1948.
- Established a religious order, the Missionaries of Charity, with the Pope's approval. They take an extra vow to look after the poor.
- She opened a home for the dying, hospitals for lepers and schools for slum children.

Reasons why stewardship is important for a community of faith

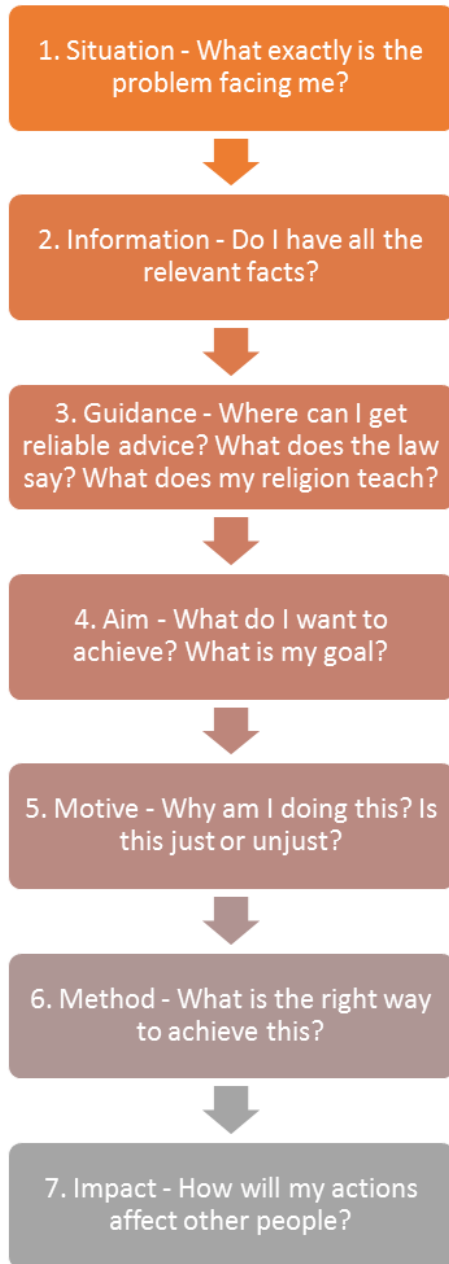
- Moral codes of religions promote taking care of the earth. For example, Christians believe that God created the world and that they are responsible for taking care of it. The Qur'an states the importance of taking care of the earth.
- Some religious founders such as Jesus promoted stewardship and used parables to explain the importance of doing so.

Part 4 - Religious Morality in Action

Justice - treating people fairly by respecting their rights

Sin - a crime against God

Making a moral decision



Part 5 - Law and Morality

Constitution - a document that sets out all the basic rights of citizens and sets limits to the power of the state in order to safeguard its citizens' rights.

Libertarianism - the view that we should be free to think and behave as we choose without interference from the state, as long as we do not interfere with the equal rights of other citizens.

Fundamentalism - The view that the ideal form of society is a *theocracy* (where the moral code of the majority religion in a state is embodied in its civil law).

Pluralism - the view that no one group should be allowed to dominate a society and that all different groups should have equal influence.

Religious morality and the law

All major religions teach that citizens should strive to be good in whatever state they live in. However, they also teach members to remember that:

- The state does not have the final say on what is right or wrong, that there's a higher standard for distinguishing right from wrong, which has been set by God.

Therefore, people should not blindly follow the laws of a state and ask if it's morally acceptable. There's many instances in history of governments using that law of the state to deprive citizens of their rights unjustly.

Opposition to an unjust law

- The black community in the US led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr (1929-1968) conducted a campaign of non-violent protest to resist unjust laws that deprived them of important civil rights.
- This began with the boycott of the bus system in Montgomery, Alabama in 1956. The protest sparked when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person which was law.
- The black community refused to be treated like second-class citizens in their own country.
- King believed in the Christian moral vision. This states that everyone is created equal in the eyes of God. He demanded equal rights for all people - black and white.
- He organised and led massive rallies, marches, sit-ins and petitions to put pressure on the US government to reform the country's laws.
- In 1957, the US Supreme Court ordered an end to laws discriminating against black passengers on public transport.
- In 1964, the Civil Rights Act granted equal rights to all American citizens.
- In recognition for his role in this, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.