



# ISLAM FACT SHEET



## WHAT IS ISLAM?

Islam means to submit before God in Arabic and, if they choose, as Muslims, to follow the divine word of God, as found in the Holy Qur'an – the most sacred text in Islam.

The Holy Qur'an was revealed in Arabic to the Prophet Muhammad over 23 years, whom Muslims believe to be the final prophet of God (Allah).



# DEMOGRAPHICS

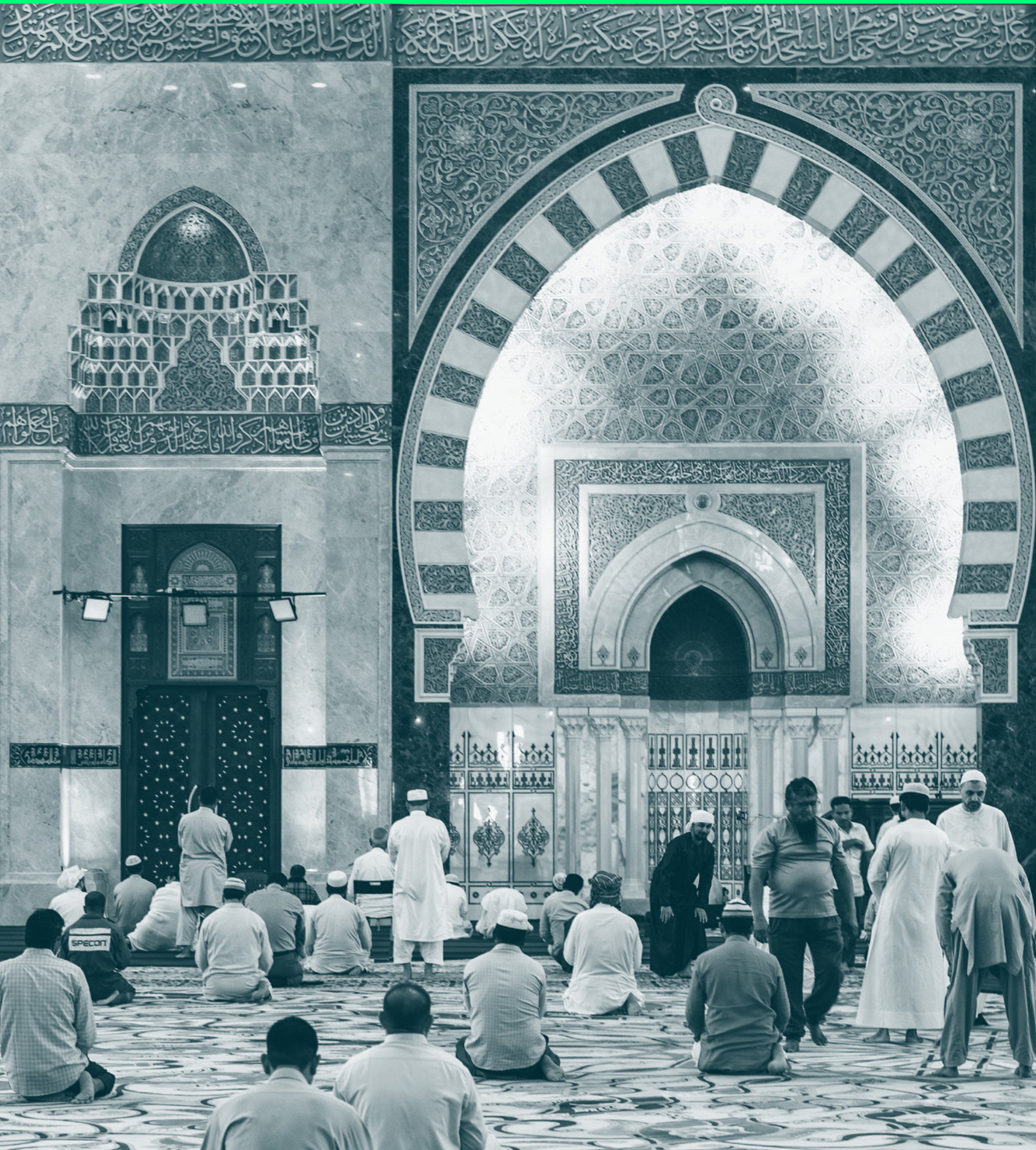
Islam is the second-largest religion globally, with over 1 billion adherents.

In 2018, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that...

The Muslim population in Great Britain stood at ...

3,372,966





## DENOMINATIONS

Islam is split into two branches; Sunni and Shia Muslims.

Both branches agree that there is only one God (Allah), that Prophet Muhammad was the messenger of Allah, and on the importance of the Prophets.

# THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

Core Islamic practice is often summed up in the 'Five Pillars':

## SHAHADAH

Reciting the Muslim profession of faith, that 'There is no God but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God'.

## SALAT

Performing ritual prayers five times each day, after ritual washing has been completed.

## ZAKAT

Making a charitable donation based on a set proportion of one's wealth.

## SAWM

Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, abstaining from food and drink between dawn and dusk.

## HAJJ

Pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which adult Muslims should do at least once in their lifetime (if they are able to do so.)





# PRACTICES

## WORSHIP

Worship takes place in either a mosque or a masjid. Prayers are usually led by a priest called an Imam.

Muslims can also perform their daily prayers at school or place of work for example, if it is more convenient. If this is the case, it is essential that the environment they pray in is suitable for showing respect to Allah.

Cleanliness before prayer is vital for Muslims, and therefore practising Muslims conduct ritual washing practices (wudhu), before prayer.



# PRACTICES

## FOOD AND DRINK

Muslims do not consume pork, and other foods such as fish are permissible, though meat products must be prepared in a specific manner to be regarded as halal.

The consumption of alcohol is considered haram (prohibited) by the majority of Muslims.

## MODESTY AND DRESS

Modesty through behaviour is the guiding principle of Islam. The hijab is a historic symbol of modesty and morality; however, it is not mandatory in Islam. The principle of modesty also extends to Muslim men.



## KEY DATES/EVENTS

The ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar. During this month, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk, abstaining from drinking and eating.

The pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

The Islamic new year is determined by the sighting of the Moon.

Falls on the 10th day of Muharram. For Muslims, Ashura marks the day God delivered the Israelites, led by the Prophet Musa (Moses), from the tyranny of Egypt's Pharaoh by parting the Red Sea, thus allowing them to cross safely.

RAMADAN

HAJJ

ISLAMIC  
NEW YEAR

ASHURA

EID UL-FITR

EID UL-ADHA

MUHARRAM

MAWLID AN-NABI

A festival signifying the end of Ramadan. The festival begins with the first sighting of the new moon at the beginning of the tenth month of the Islamic calendar.

Festival of Sacrifice. This marks the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The first month of the Islamic calendar.

Commemorates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.





## SYMBOLS

The star and crescent moon is the best-known symbol to represent Islam, and is featured on the flags of several Muslim countries.

