



FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS

Practices in Britain and elsewhere 'Four festivals in Islam'

'Four festivals in Islam' – Key terms

Id-ul-Adha	Festival of sacrifice, also known as the 'Greater Id', which marks the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage.	Ramadan	The ninth month of the Islamic calendar and a month of fasting for Muslims.
Id-ul-Fitr	Festival of fast-breaking, which marks the end of fasting during the month of Ramadan.	Muharram	The first month of the Muslim calendar.
Ashura	A day of fasting for Muslims, particularly celebrated by Shi'a Muslims.	Fasting	Fasting means going without food and water for a length of time.
Night of Power	The night on which the Angel Jibril gives the first revelation of the Qur'an to Muhammad.	Animal Sacrifice	The slaughter of an animal as part of a ritual in a religious festival.

Key quotes

“O believers! Fasting is prescribed for you — as it was for those before you — so perhaps you will become mindful of Allah.”

Qur'an 2:183

Key beliefs

Id-ul-Adha	Muslims celebrate in a number of ways; exchanging gifts, visiting friends and family, praying in a mosque and sacrificing an animal for a communal meal .
Id-ul-Fitr	Muslims celebrate the end of fasting in a number of ways: decorating their homes with coloured lights, breaking the fast with a family meal, families dressing up in new clothes, exchanging gifts, sharing food with families and friends, visiting a mosque and cemetery.
Ashura	Ashura is a day of fasting . Shi'a Muslims focus on the death of Husayn in battle at Karbala, in 680CE . Shi'a Muslims regard Husayn as a martyr and the third imam, so on this day there are re-enactments of the historical events, processions, prayers, fasting and often blood donations .
Night of Power	Night of Power is considered one of the most important events in human history by Muslims and many Muslims will celebrate this festival in a devout way; this will involve reciting the Qur'an , spending time in prayer and at a mosque and some Muslims will not sleep on this night.
Celebrating festivals in Britain	Muslim school children will be allowed time off school to celebrate Muslims festivals . The month of Ramadan changes each year, and in the summer months when it is celebrated Muslim school children and adults may find the day light fast more difficult because of the longer length of the day.

Key connections

How do beliefs about festivals and commemorations relate to other areas of your study?

Hajj, Qur'an, Jibril, Adam, Ibrahim, Muhammad

Exam practice

What do Muslims mean by a 'mosque'? (2)

Describe how Muslims celebrate Id-ul-Fitr. (5)