



**Everything you wanted to know,
but didnt know who to ask.**

CONTENT PAGE:

01. 'My Ramadan' - Vision
02. Pop-up Session dates and times
04. Question time with Ramadan (Part 1)
08. Speaker Profiles - Aaqil, Zahra
10. Question time with Ramadan (Part 2)
12. Speaker profiles- Our Experts
14. Question time with Ramadan (Part 3)
16. BBC Analysis & Research
18. Islam in the UK-An overview
22. Contact details



VISION

My Ramadan is a pop project set up by Religion and Ethics for programme and content makers across the BBC. As a one stop shop for everything you wanted to know about Ramadan but didn't know who to ask.

We are holding information sessions across the country at the main BBC centres including Salford, London, Bham, Cardiff and Glasgow (and some regions).

At these sessions there will be speakers including, Head of Religion **Aaqil Ahmed**, a Muslim expert from the region/area and a presentation of some research on the make-up of Muslim Britain today.

Within this pack will also be of information about our speakers, statistical research and a compilation of the most commonly asked questions about Ramadan answered.

WHEN, WHERE, WHO?

Monday
08
June

Media Cafe
Broadcasting House (London)
3 - 4pm

Speakers: **Ajmal Masroor,
Aaqil Ahmad, Zahra Khimji,**

Hospitality Suite
Broadcasting House (Cardiff)
3 - 4pm

Speakers: **Neila Butt, Shahien Taj OBE**

Tuesday
09
June

Wednesday
10
June

Business Lounge
MailBox - Birmingham
3 - 4pm

Speakers: **Sheikh Paul Salhuddin
Armstrong Aaqil Ahmad.**

Old Man of Hoy
Pacific Quay--Glasgow
3 - 4pm

Speakers: **Proft Mona Siddiqui OBE,**
Neila Butt

Thursday
11
June



Friday
12
June

Alan Turing Imaginarium
6th Floor Dock House - Salford
3 - 4pm

Speakers: **Asad Zaman, Aaqil Ahmed,**
Zahra Khimji.



QUESTION TIME - 'MY RAMADAN'

Ramadan, what does this mean?

Ramadan, one of the pillars of Islam, is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar. It is when Muslims all over the world spend 29/30 days fasting and bettering themselves in the practices of their faith.

Why do Muslims Fast?

Fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well.

Ramadan is seen by Muslims as an opportunity to spiritually purify themselves allowing them to work on becoming closer to God, it also allows them to work towards getting past sins forgiven.

Why is it a pillar of Islam?

The five pillars of Islam define the basic identity of Muslims - their faith, beliefs and practices - and bind together a worldwide community of believers into a fellowship of shared values and concerns. Muslims believe fasting in the month of Ramadan was ordained in their holy book, The Qur'an and that to fast is to perform a act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a richer perception of God.

Did you know?

In Oman, they have 6 hour working days during Ramadan for everyone, and anyone who works more is paid overtime, or forced to take time off at a later point.

What's the Significance of Sunrise and Sunset?

“You may eat and drink until the white thread becomes distinguishable to you from the dark thread at dawn. Then you shall maintain the fast until the night.” 2:187. From these words from the Qur ‘an, abstaining from food and drink should start at the first thread of light at dawn (between an hour and 2 hours before sunrise, depending on the time of year), and maintained till night. There are some differences between denominations in how you define the night, is it when the sun starts to set (Sunni) or when the sun has fully set (Shia)

When and how did fasting become obligatory for Muslims, and what was the social historical context at that time?

Fasting the month of Ramadan was made obligatory (wajib) during the month of Sha’ban (8th Month), in the second year after the Muslims migrated from Makkah to Medina (624 AD). There were a huge number of people that migrated from Makkah to Medina. So the population of Medina swelled and a lot of the people that came to Medina left everything behind.

The ordainment for fasting was in three stages:

The First Stage: The Muslims were ordered to fast on the day of Ashura, Ashura is significant to Muslims as it is believed to be the day which God saved Moses and his followers from the pharaoh.

The Second Stage: The Muslims were given the option of either fasting during the month of Ramadan or feeding a poor person for each day they did not fast, with preference for fasting over feeding.

The Third Stage: Fasting the month of Ramadan became obligatory without choice and fasting on the day of Ashura became optional.

What does fasting entail, is it just not eating and drinking?

Fasting is not only about not eating and drinking, for Muslims it is also about becoming closer to God through increasing prayers, reading more of the Quran, learning more about Islam and also abstaining from bad habits that one may have.

Why Ramadan and not any other month?

Muslims believe Ramadan is a blessed month ordained by God. It is the month in which the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet. It is also the month, in which Satan and his minions are said to be locked away in Hell to prevent them from misleading and deceiving the believers.

This doesn't mean that they don't believe that sin and bad deeds will completely disappear for a month but it will mean that if bad deeds are done and sins committed, they will be from the hearts of people alone and the devil cannot be blamed.

God has also promised people that the reward for good deeds and actions during the holy month will be multiplied greater than usual and this encourages many to increase their level of worship and prayer. Although, this also applies to sins, so any bad action only invites greater punishment than usual.

What does iftari and sehri mean?

Iftaari/Iftar is the evening meal, in which Muslims break their fast. (Sunset) Sehri/Suhoor is the early morning meal in which Muslims start their fast (Sunrise)

When is Ramadan?

Ramadan changes date each year and this year will start on the 18th of June, though the date is dependent on the sighting of the moon and will last for either 29 or 30 days.

The significance of eating Dates?

Around 7.5 million tonnes of dates are produced each year; dates also have a special place in Islam. In fact they were one of the Prophet Muhammad's most frequently consumed food. Breaking the fast with dates is a Ramadan tradition. Breaking one's fast with dates, as well as praying before iftar, are both mentioned in the Hadith (early Islamic literature):

“The Messenger of Allah would break his fast with ripe dates before he would pray.

If those were not available, he would eat dried dates. If those were not available, he would drink some water.”

Breaking fast by eating dates helps avoid overeating of food after the fast is finished. When the body begins to absorb the high nutritional value of the dates, feelings of hunger are pacified. It can also significantly boost energy levels in people within half an hour of consuming them.

Did you know?

The longest day of the year is the 21st of June and this year for the first time since 1984 Ramadan will fall on that day, which means Muslims will be fasting from 2:28AM to 10:02PM give or take 5 mins. So for nearly 20 hours Muslims will not eat or drink.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Aaqil Ahmed

Head of Religion & Ethics at BBC



Aaqil is behind some of the most influential programmes on Islam from the The Life of Muhammad, The Qur'an, Karbala: City of Martyrs, make me a Muslim, the seven wonders of the Islamic World as well as ground breaking seasons such as Islam UK.

“My Ramadan is the start of how we need to sweat our assets more on air to better serve all our audiences. Hard to reach diverse groups tell us they want us to help with the lack of religious literacy in society and these sessions are hopefully helpful in some way to give more of our colleagues the confidence and resources to deliver programming in this territory, If you have a question don't be afraid to ask. We really want to help”

Will be speaking at following sessions:

Monday 8th June - London

Wednesday 10th June - Birmingham

Friday 12th June - Salford

Zahra Khimiji - BBC Analyst & Researcher

Zahra Khimiji is a Foreign Affairs Analyst at BBC Analysis & Research. She recently worked at BBC Watchdog as well as helped produce 'White Widow: Searching for Samantha', an exclusive BBC1 prime-time documentary on Samantha Lewthwaite.

Why Ramadan?

“Programme makers and content producers should feel confident that there is a wealth of information on the British Muslim population to chew on. The demographic information from the 2011 Census gives an in-depth and fresh perspective of the fasting month and the makeup of Muslim Britain.”

Will be speaking at following sessions:

Monday 8th June - London

Friday 12th June - Salford



QUESTION TIME - 'MY RAMADAN'

What impact does Ramadan have on the economy from the Middle Eastern economies to local supermarkets?

There is a study which suggests that longer Ramadan fasting has a negative effect on output growth in Muslim countries, although it increases well-being among Muslims. So people are happier, but they're producing less; and with the Middle East's growing influence, this does have an effect on the world economy.

For local supermarkets and shops, all over the world (including the UK) business is booming before and during Ramadan, Muslims will come and stock up for the month and many shops have seen there is a profit to be made as a direct effect of Ramadan so they too have special offers on food. More mainly Muslim restaurants offer Iftaar (at sunset) meals and buffets (including the UK).

Why does Ramadan change date every year?

The exact date of Ramadan changes every year because Islam uses a lunar calendar, which means that each month begins with the sighting of a new moon. Because lunar months are shorter than the solar months used elsewhere, Islamic holidays begin on different days each year.

Did you know?

During Ramadan we see relationships between the different religions strengthen; in some instances churches in the UK have opened their doors for Muslims when there is an overspill at the mosque, so that the extra people that do go to the mosque are accommodated for. Also many mosques and organisations have open Iftaars in which they invite people from the community to join them and this helps bring people together regardless of their faith.

What is fasting like in the workplace/school?

One of the main aims of Ramadan is that people should carry on as normal i.e going to school/going to work, and not use fasting as an excuse to not do something they would normally do. Muslims must carry on as normal. Undoubtedly it will be harder for them to keep the same concentration levels due to the lack of fluids and food.

What is the significance of Eid, and how is it celebrated?

Eid is the festival right after Ramadan ends, it celebrates the ending of Ramadan and is a day in which Muslims are not allowed to fast. At Eid al-Fitr people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family. And most importantly they feast!

How do addicts fast? (Smokers & Coffee etc...)

Some people go cold turkey for the month, some people just smoke or drink during the hours in which eating/drinking is allowed. Others use the month to try to quit. Although it should be noted that eating and drinking is actually prohibited during the hours of fasting



Muslims donate during Ramadan more than any other month, why do they do this?

A lot of Muslims think about the poor during this time so tend to give more, also with rewards for good deeds being multiplied during this month; people tend to give their Zakat during this month as well. Zakat is another pillar of Islam which says that one must give 2.5% of their wealth to charity every year.

What are Taraweeh prayers and why do people pray them during Ramadan only?

Taraweeh refers to extra prayers performed by most Muslims at night in the Islamic month of Ramadan. Contrary to popular belief, they are not compulsory. However, many Muslims pray these prayers in the night during Ramadan in order to get closer to God. Different denominations pray taraweeh differently, like Shia's do not pray taraweeh at all.

What is the night of power?

Laylatul Qadr (Night of Power) falls within Ramadan and is believed by Muslims to be when the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad for the very first time. As such it is considered to be one of the holiest dates in the Islamic calendar, however no one really knows when that date is. Sunni's believe it is on one of the last five odd nights in Ramadan and Shia's believe it is on one of the last 10 odd nights in Ramadan.

What are the main health benefits of fasting ?

According to the American Physiological Society fasting:

- Helps Weight Loss
- Improves Insulin Sensitivity
- Speeds Up The Metabolism
- Fasting Improves Your Brain Function
- Improves Your Immune System

Itikaaf, what is it – why do some people spend 10 days in seclusion?

Itikaaf is when someone spends 10 days in seclusion inside a mosque (nowadays at home too). It usually takes place in the last ten days of Ramadan. The idea is you increase the amount of prayers in an attempt to become closer to God. It is also what the prophet did every Ramadan.

Did you know?

The reason why this holy month is called “Ramadan” is because Muslims believe they are ‘burning their sins’ away. A person that is fasting endures heat whilst hungry and thirsty.



SPEAKER PROFILES

Ajmal Masroor
(Imam, Broadcaster, Politician)
London 8th June

He specialises in writing on marriage and relationship issues but also writes on political, social and community matters. He is a regular commentator on Islamic/Asian issues in the media and leads Friday prayers across 4 Mosques in London.



Shahien Taj, OBE
Cardiff 9th June

She is the founder and executive and director of The Henna Foundation. Her extensive work with grassroots community groups has helped her build positive working relationships with a cross section of services. Her commitment to equality, human rights and her specialist understanding in tackling 'honour' related abuse, led her to star the Forced Marriage Knowledge Centre and Directory. She was awarded with OBE in 2008.



**Sheikh Paul Salahuddin Armstrong
Birmingham 10th June**

After reverting (convert) to Islam in 2000, he has studied religion and spirituality for the past 15 years, along side many well-known Islamic scholars. He is the Codirector of The Association of British Muslims and has worked with and been a trustee of Wolverhampton Inter-Faith & Regeneration Network. He is also the founder of Wulfruna Sufi Association.



**Prof. Mona Siddiqui OBE, FRSE, FRSA
Glasgow – 11th June**

She has written for The Guardian, The Times, The Scotsman and Sunday Herald. In 2011 she was awarded an OBE for her contribution to interfaith services. Her areas of specialism are classical Islamic law, law and gender, early Islamic thought, and contemporary legal and ethical issues in Islam.



Asad Zaman (Educationalist & Imam) – Salford 12th June

A full time educationist and Imam. He set up his own private college teaching children up to GCSE level in Maths and English. He has been an Imam for over 20 years and gives Friday sermon and prayers to several Mosques across Manchester. He is a regular contributor to the media speaking on BBC Radio Manchester and 5 Live, as well as BBC North West tonight.



QUESTION TIME - 'MY RAMADAN'

Who has to fast, do all Muslims do it – What is the age range?

Every Muslim is obligated to fast in the month of Ramadan. With the exception of:

- Children (under 13)
- Those suffering from mental illness.
- Those who are physically unable to fast, due to old age, severe or long-term illness.
- People who travel a walking distance of two days (about 80 miles)
- Women who are either menstruating, has postpartum bleeding, are pregnant or breast feeding.

Who came up with Ramadan? – Is it in the Quran?

Muslims believe fasting in the month of Ramadan is a command from God, which can be found in the Quran in surah Bakarah (2:183-185, translation below)

“O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.

[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] - then an equal number of days [are to be made up]. And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] - a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day]. And whoever volunteers excess - it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew

The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion

So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful”

Are there other holy dates when Muslims fast?

There are many other days in which Muslims fast, however these fasts are not considered to be obligatory, as Ramadan is.

- 1) Six days of the month of Shawwaal (10th month of Islamic Calendar).
- 2) The first nine days of Thul-Hijjah (12th month of Islamic Calendar) the 10th day of this month is the second Eid.
- 3) The day of ‘Arafah for those who are not performing Hajj (9th of Thul-Hijjah).
- 4) Fasting during the month of Al-Muharram (1st Month of Islamic Calendar). Also the day of Ashura takes place in this month; it is on the 10th of the Month.
- 5) Fasting most of the month of Sha’baan (8th Month of Islamic Calendar).
- 6) Fasting three days of every lunar month. (Normally is the 13th, 14th and 15th of each month)
- 7) Fasting on Monday and Thursday, as Muslims believed the prophets mohammad did.

Did you know?

Many muslims use a Miswak during Ramadan, to abstain from using stay toothpaste during Ramadan.

A miswak is a teeth cleaning twig made from the *Salvadora persica* tree (known as arak in Arabic). A traditional alternative to the modern toothbrush, it has a long, well-documented history and is reputed for its medicinal benefits.

What about the six fasts after Ramadan that people do; what are they and why do they do it?

Some people fast for six days after Eid, although not obligatory. Many people do this to become closer to God, and follow in the example of the Prophet.

Ayoob Al-Ansari is Sahabi and said: "Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan and then follows it with six days of Shawwaal will be rewarded as the one who fasts the entire year."

What about athletes who may be taking part in a sporting event, footballers, cricketers and boxers are very good examples of this. Can they skip fasting?

There are some different schools of thought on this but nowadays most scholars agree that Ramadan should be the priority, if they can do both then well and good. But if they have to give up sport during Ramadan, some scholars have said that this is permissible provided they make up for it later on.

What happens if you break a fast, intentionally or unintentionally? What if you miss it?

If someone unintentionally eats or drinks during their fast in Ramadan, they should continue and complete their fast, as this does not invalidate or break the fast. This is regardless of how much they have consumed. However if they intentionally break a fast by eating, the penalty is they must fast for two consecutive months [60 days]. If they are unable to do this, then they must feed sixty poor people for a day with two full meals. Anyone who intentionally broke their fast more than once in Ramadan will still perform only one penalty.

What other faiths fast? Are there any similarities to Ramadan?

In Christianity, Lent is the main period of fasting which is a 40 day fast in which meat, dairy and eggs are prohibited.

In Judaism Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement is the best-known fast day. The Jewish calendar has six other fast days as well, including Tisha B'av, the day on which the destruction of the Jewish Temple took place.

In Hinduism fasting is commonly practiced on New Moon days and during festivals such as Shivaratri, Sarasvati Puja, and Durga Puja (also known as Navaratri).

A point to note is that the method of fasting is different within all these faiths.

What about people in the Northern Hemisphere who would have to fast for days on end?

In places like Sweden where the sun doesn't set in the summer months the Muslims would follow the closest country where the sun does set. Although it may seem unfair, in a few years' time Ramadan will fall in winter where the Northern Hemispheres have the shortest days of the year. However it will be the opposite for people in the Southern Hemisphere.

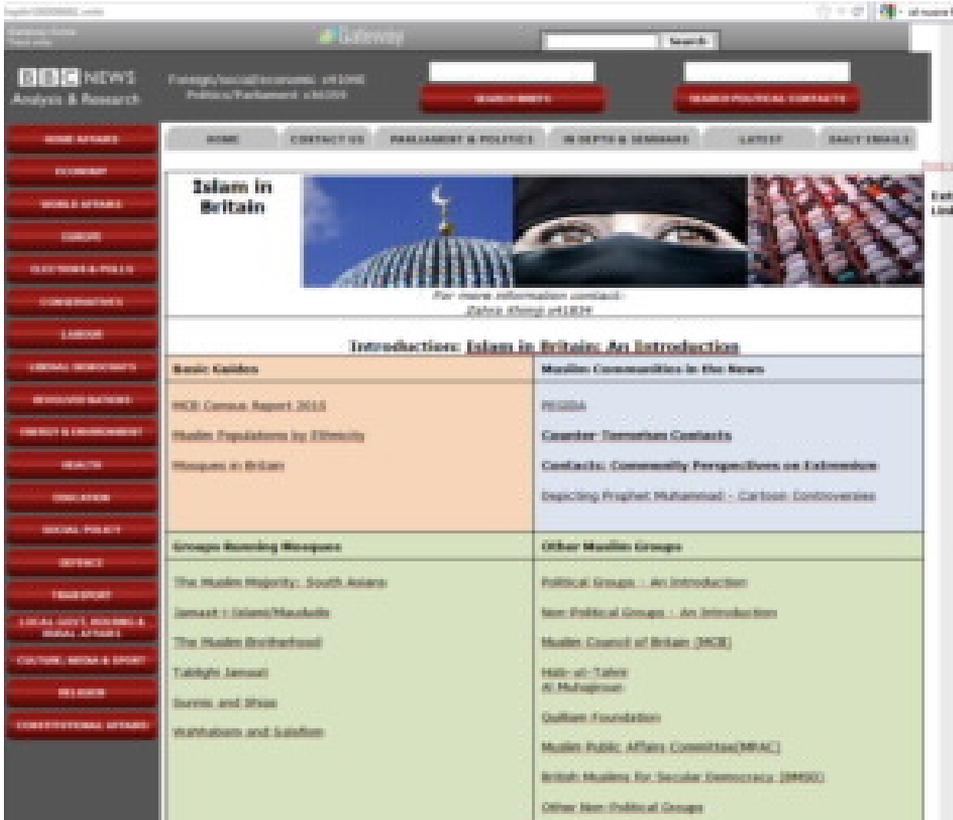
Did you know?

To Muslims, The Qur'an is the word of God sent down to the Prophet Muhammad through the Angel (Gabriel), in its precise wording.

Hadith, on the other hand, refers to the Prophet's sayings, acts and his physical and moral character.

BBC ANALYSIS & RESEARCH

Analysis & Research has a dedicated Islam in Britain site which includes the following:



The screenshot shows the BBC Analysis & Research website. The main content area is titled "Islam in Britain" and features a header image with a mosque dome, a woman in a niqab, and a crowd. Below the header, there is a section titled "Introduction: Islam in Britain: An Introduction" which contains a grid of links:

Basic Guides	Muslim Communities in the News
MCE Census Report 2015	PECS04
Muslim Populations by Ethnicity	Counter-Terrorism Contacts
Mosques in Britain	Contacts: Community Perspectives on Extremism
Groups Wearing Weapons	Depicting Prophet Muhammad - Cartoon Controversies
The Muslim Majority: South Asians	Other Muslim Groups
Jamaat - Islam/Masjids	Political Groups - An Introduction
The Muslim Brotherhood	Non-Political Groups - An Introduction
Tabligh Jamaat	Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)
Sunni and Shia	Hajj-at-Tahrir (Hajj for Muslims)
Sunabans and Sunnis	Qadiri Foundation
	Muslim Public Affairs Committee (MPAC)
	British Muslims for Secular Democracy (BMSD)
	Other Non-Political Groups

Fourteen pages of contacts including counter-terrorism contacts, community perspectives on extremism, secular contacts, Imams, young Muslims, Muslim media contacts and Muslims in Germany, France and Belgium

- Basic guides on the general British Muslim population and its demographics including ethnic divisions and population figures.

- *Topical issues such as sharia courts, British Muslims fighting abroad, FGM, the War on Terror and key events in Britain since 7/7

*Religious divisions according to mosques and communities including Jamaat-i-Islami, the Muslim Brotherhood and Tablighi Jamaat.

*Recent statistical data and polls on Muslim public views and public views on Muslims.

* Political and non-political groups including Al Muhajiroun, Quilliam Foundation and Muslim Public Affairs Committee

*News affecting Muslim communities in the world including the PEGIDA movement in Europe and events relating to the depiction of Prophet Muhammed.

*A set of briefs dedicated to Muslims in Europe including contacts and issues in France, Belgium and Germany for example

For any questions or for more information please contact
Zahra Khimji (x41834).

The BBC Analysis & Research unit provides detailed briefings on all the top news stories for BBC News journalists. Our mission is to stay ahead of the news agenda and prepare journalists with information on stories before they take place. We monitor pressure points and general trends across the world and the United Kingdom. We can provide bespoke briefings, for example for major interviews or ahead of a foreign trip. We organise regular seminars and roundtables with outside experts on key subjects. The department also co-ordinates surveys and polling.

Politics & Parliamentary queries - 020 797 36359
World Affairs queries –020 361 41040
UK specialists (Home, Social, Business and Economics) -
020 361 41040

You can access Analysis & Research via this link: <http://bbcapps2498/home.aspx> or by typing 'Analysis & Research' into Gateway's search box.

ISLAM IN THE UK – AN OVERVIEW

Population

- Muslims form 5% of the total population in England and Wales. The population has increased from 1.55 million in 2001 to 2.71 million in 2011. There are 77,000 Muslims in Scotland and 3,800 in Northern Ireland. The Muslim population is larger than all other non-Christian faith groups put together
- 47% of Muslims are UK-born. The remaining majority is from Asia and the Middle East
- The population is overwhelmingly young. 33% of Muslims aged 15 years or under, compared to 19% in the overall population. 4% of Muslims are aged 65, compared to 16% of the total population. The median age of the Muslim population is 25 years
- Of a total of 753 parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, 26 have a Muslim population of 20% or more

Ethnic Makeup

- The majority of Muslims are Asian. The breakdown is as follows: 68% Asian (1.83 million of 2.71 million) and 32% non-Asian. 1 in 12 is Caucasian (8% of the Muslim population). The ethnic breakup is diverse
- Pakistanis make up the majority (38%) of the Muslim population, with Bangladeshis in second place (15%)
- One in three of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population is Muslim 32% of the 7.9 million BME community
- There has been a significant rise in the Somali population since 2001 but very little numerical information on this so far

Mosques

- 44% of British mosques follow the Deobandi school of thought. It is part of one of the four Sunni schools of thought and stresses traditional observance, interpretation of the Quran and the study of traditions
- 96% of mosques are Sunni and 4% are Shia

Faction	Typical Ethnicity	All UK Masjids	London Masjids	London Congregations	Estimated London populations
Deobandi Masjids	<i>mainly Asian</i>	approx 700-800	192	115,000	317,000
Barelvi Masjids	<i>Asian & Turkish</i>	approx 350	52	43,000	121,000
'Maudoodi' Masjids	<i>Asian</i>	60	7	3,200	9,000
Salafi Masjids	<i>diverse ethnicity</i>	60	20	12,600	35,000
Other mainstream Sunni	<i>Arab and African</i>	32	16	30,000	85,000
All Sunni Masjids		1,520	298	205,000	
Sunni population		96%	94%		570,000
All Shi'a Masjids	<i>mainly Asian, some Iraqi, Iranian</i>	67	20	9,000	
Shi'a population		4%	6%		36,000

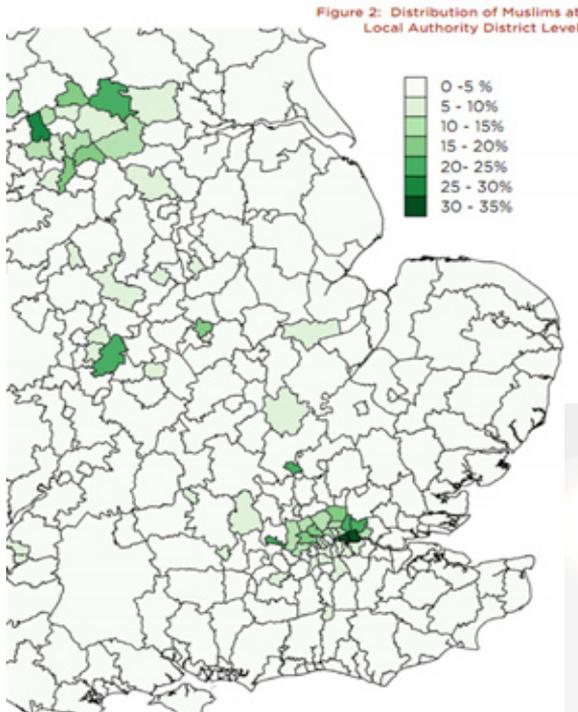
Geographical Distribution

- According to the 2011 census, the majority of Muslims in the UK (76%) live in the inner city conurbations of Greater London (38%), West Midlands (14%), the North West and Yorkshire (13%) and Humberside (12%)
- There are 35 Local Authorities with a Muslim population of 10% or more
- Muslims form 12.4% of London's population
- The Muslim population in London has increased by 35% between 2001 and 2011
- The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has the biggest population of Muslims in London (36%), which increased from 71,000 in 2001 to 88,000 in 2011 (19%).

Bradford has the greatest concentration (24.7%) of Muslims in one area there are about 70 wards with a Muslim population of 40% or more. The wards with the highest percentage of Muslims (over 70%) are in Blackburn (Bastwell and Shear Brow), Birmingham (Washwood Heath, Bordesley Green and Sparkbrook), Burnley (Daneshouse with Stoneyholme) and Bradford (Toller, Manningham and Bradford Moor)

- Almost half (46%) of the Muslim population resides in the 10% most deprived areas of the UK

National Identity (page 2 of Islam in the UK)



The majority (73%) of the total British Muslim population identifies itself as British.

92% of the British Muslim population has English as their main language.



Family Life, Work and Education

- There is a higher rate of unemployment and inactivity in the British Muslim population compared to the overall population. Only 20% is in full time employment compared to 35% of the total population
- There's a high percentage of Muslim married households with dependent children *35% compared to 15% in the overall population
- Females making up 43% of Muslim full-time students
- Almost half (43%) of the population own their own home and 30% renting privately. 28% of Muslim households occupy social housing

Crime and Homelessness

- *Over 5% of the British Muslim population is homeless
- *Over 13% of the total prison population is Muslim

Muslim Public Views

According to a joint ComRes/BBC Radio 4 Today poll conducted in February 2015:

- Almost all Muslims living in Britain feel a loyalty to the country (95%). Just 6% say they feel a disloyalty
- Half (49%) believe Muslim clerics preaching that violence against the west can be justified are out of touch with mainstream Muslim opinion, while 45% disagree
- More than two in five (46%) feel that being a Muslim in Britain is difficult due to prejudice against Islam
- One in four (27%) British Muslims say they have some sympathy for the motives behind the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

Public Views of Muslims

According to a joint ComRes/Radio 1 Newsbeat poll conducted in June 2013:

- More than a quarter of 18 to 24-year-olds in Britain do not trust Muslims
- Of the 1,000 young people questioned, 28% said Britain would be better off with fewer Muslims.

- 44% said Muslims did not share the same values as the rest of the population
- Some 60% thought the British public had a negative image of Muslims
- When asked about religious groups 27% said they didn't trust Muslims.

Views of Schoolchildren

According to one poll conducted by Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) in May 2015 of 6,000 schoolchildren between 2012-2014:

- 35% of schoolchildren agreed or partly agreed that "Muslims are taking over our country"
- Almost half (47%) agreed there are poor relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in England

Additional Resources

- Visit the BBC Analysis & Research's webpage Islam in Britain for a comprehensive look at British Muslims, for contacts and for briefs on news stories affecting the population. You can access this via Gateway by typing in 'Analysis & Research' into the search box.
- To search for mosques in a particular area, use this link "Map of Masaajid/Mosques" or visit <http://mosques.muslimsinbritain.org>
- For the latest statistics and research on British Muslims, use the Muslims in Numbers report released by the Muslim Council of Britain
- Innes Bowen ,Medina in Birmingham, Najaf in Brent: Inside British Islam, 288pp, Hurst, 2014

Contact details:

If you require any footage or information you have seen in the session, please email us or come and visit us:

MyRamadan@bbc.co.uk

1st Floor Dock House
Mediacity
Salford
M50 2BH

