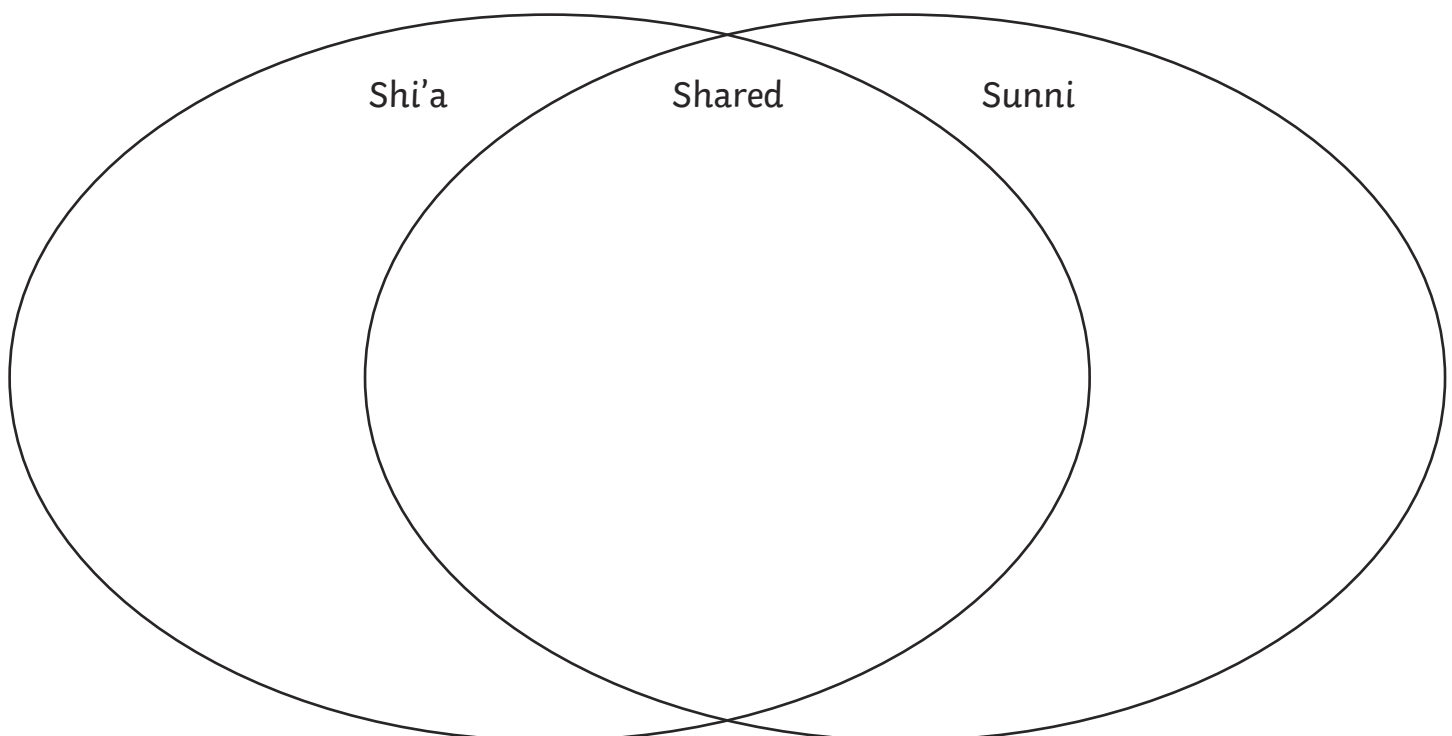


# Shi'a and Sunni: Key Beliefs

For Shi'a Muslims, the basis of their faith is summarised in the Usul ad-Din. These are the roots of all other aspects of their faith. Sunni Muslims, in contrast, have six articles of faith. These lists do not contain everything these two groups believe, but represent a series of core beliefs everyone belonging to these groups should agree with. These are summarised here:

| Usul ad-Din   | Articles of faith   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief that there is one God who has no partners or equals (Tawhid).</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief that there is one God who has no partners or equals (Tawhid).</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in the Prophets (such as Ibrahim and Musa) and that Muhammad is the 'seal of the prophets'.</li></ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in the Prophets (such as Ibrahim and Musa) and that Muhammad is the 'seal of the prophets'.</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief that people will be resurrected on the Day of Judgement.</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in the holy books brought by these prophets.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in the Imamate. This is the hereditary line of Shi'a leaders that started with Ali.</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in the Day of Judgement.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in God's divine justice. This is the idea that we are all responsible for our actions and God judges us fairly based on these.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Belief in predestination. This is the idea that Allah knows everything that will happen. However, Sunnis claim this doesn't stop us having free will.</li></ul> |

1. Using the information above, complete the Venn diagram to show the differences and similarities between these lists of fundamental beliefs.



2. To what extent do you think Shi'a and Sunni Islam are different? Explain your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

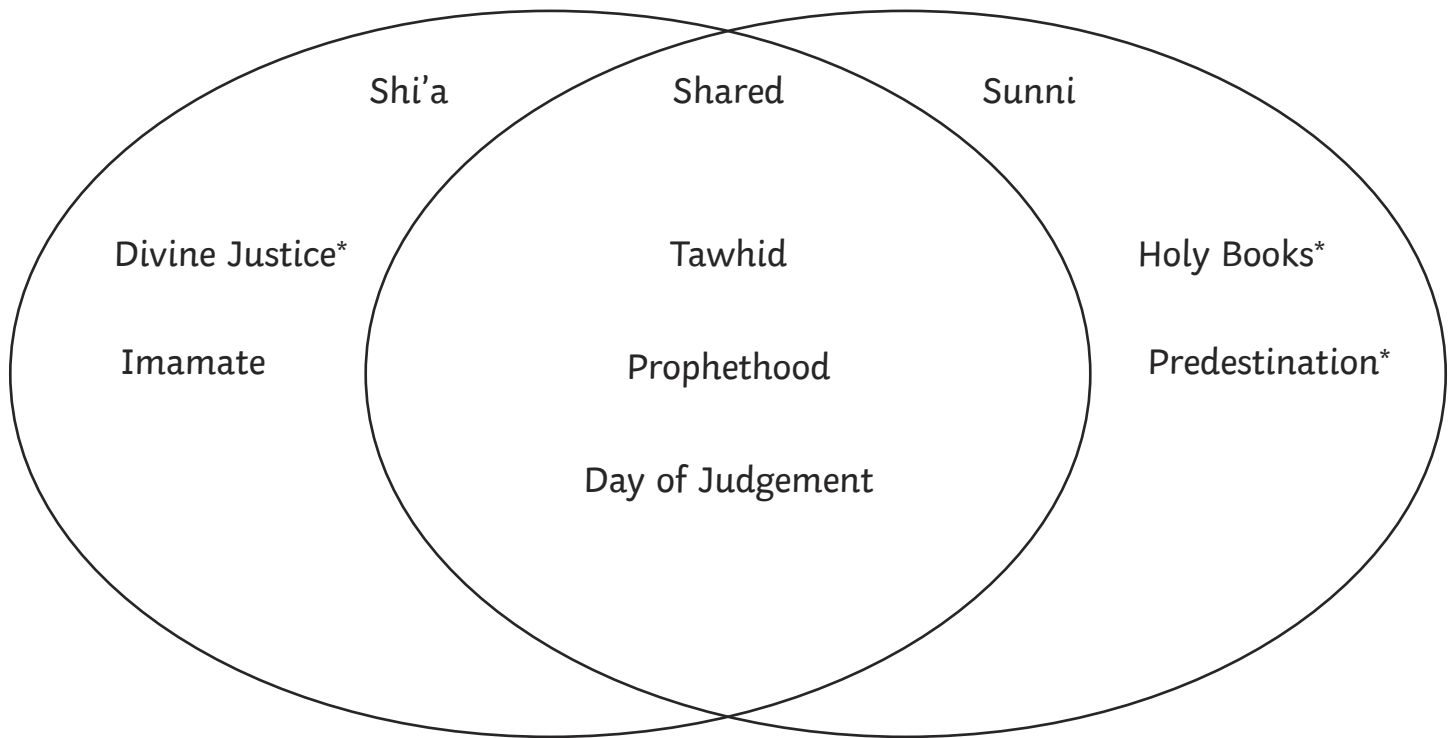
---

---



# Shi'a and Sunni: Key Beliefs Answers

1. Using the information above, complete the Venn diagram to show the differences and similarities between these lists of fundamental beliefs.



2. To what extent do you think Shi'a and Sunni Islam are different? Explain your answer.

This question is opinion based. The important part is how this opinion is justified. Expect answers arguing they are different to focus on different beliefs about the Imamate. Arguments that they are similar will likely focus on the shared beliefs shown above.

\* Please note this is not to say that Shi'a/Sunni Muslims do not believe in these things. They just do not put them into their list of fundamental beliefs. For example, Shi'a Muslims hold the Qur'an in the highest regard.