

Activity 5

Islam in Britain and the world

– facts, dates and numbers

Summary

Young people work with a quiz concerning Muslims in the UK and the world. They draw on their general knowledge and on guesswork, and also perhaps research the answers on the Internet and works of reference. They construct a similar quiz for themselves and each other. They may conduct a survey to find out the levels of knowledge amongst others, and may depict some of the correct answers in charts, graphs and diagrams.

Why?

The benefits that young people gain from this exercise include the following. They:

- gain factual knowledge about the population of the UK, and of how many British Muslims there are, and where they live
- gain knowledge of how many Muslims there are in the wider world, and where they live
- appreciate the diversity of Islam as well as its unity
- gain a sense of the big picture
- situate themselves both in Britain and the world, and in this way appreciate the wider contexts in which they are growing up
- develop greater self-confidence.

This activity also has the potential to develop mathematical and statistical skills, and skills in presenting statistical data in graphs, charts and diagrams.

Preparation

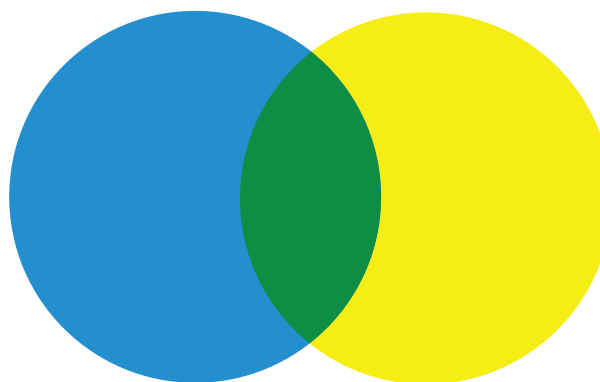
You need questions for a quiz. They can take various forms. Other things being equal, it can be useful to use multiple-choice questions. These are more fun, and provide parameters and guidance to prevent or limit wild guesswork. Some possible questions are provided in Handout 8.

Procedure

It is valuable for young people to work in pairs, small groups or teams. It may be worth providing a small prize to the group or team that gets most answers right.

Comment

A teacher who used this activity during the piloting stage of this pack wrote: 'Students loved this task, and the idea of a bus with 50 people on it. I produced a bus diagram which they could shade in with their ideas.'



Identity, Empowerment and Change, Handout 8

Islam in Britain and the World, a Quiz

1. **Imagine a double-decker bus containing 50 people, and imagine that, with regard to religious background, these 50 people are a cross-section of the whole of the UK population. How many of the 50 would be of Muslim background?**
 - a) two at the most
 - b) between 3 and 8
 - c) between 9 and 15
 - d) more than 15

2. **Imagine a double-decker bus similarly containing 50 people. They are all British Muslims and they are a cross-section of the entire British Muslim population.**

How many of them would be under 16 years of age?

 - a) 5
 - b) 10
 - c) 15
 - d) 20

3. **How many would have been born in Britain?**
 - a) 15
 - b) 20
 - c) 25
 - d) 35

4. **How many would have their origins in South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan), either personally or through their parents or grandparents?**
 - a) 24
 - b) 34
 - c) 44
 - d) 54

5. **How many would have their origins in Pakistan, either personally or through their parents or grandparents?**
 - a) 12
 - b) 22
 - c) 32
 - d) 42

6. **How many would live in London?**
 - a) 20
 - b) 30
 - c) 35
 - d) 40

7. **Here are the names of the nine English regions, including London, plus Scotland and Wales. Arrange them in the order of the size of their Muslim population.**
- a) Eastern England
 - b) East Midlands
 - c) London
 - d) North East
 - e) North West
 - f) Scotland
 - g) South East
 - h) South West
 - i) West Midlands
 - j) Yorkshire and the Humber
 - k) Wales
8. **There are Muslims in other European countries as well as the UK. Which of the following has most?**
- a) France
 - b) Germany
 - c) Italy
 - d) The Netherlands
9. **Arrange the countries in the previous question in the order of the size (not proportion) of their Muslim population.**
10. **Here are the names of four countries outside Europe. Which has the largest number (not proportion) of Muslim citizens?**
- a) Iraq
 - b) Russia
 - c) Saudi Arabia
 - d) Somalia
11. **Here are the names of the 10 countries in the world that have the largest numbers of Muslim citizens. Arrange them in the order of the size of their Muslim population:**
- a) Bangladesh
 - b) China
 - c) Egypt
 - d) Ethiopia
 - e) India
 - f) Indonesia
 - g) Iran
 - h) Nigeria
 - i) Pakistan
 - j) Turkey
12. **In the previous question, 8 of the 10 countries are Muslim-majority countries. Which two are not?**

13. A coin minted in England contains a quotation from Islamic scriptures. Who was monarch at the time?

- a) Queen Anne (died 1714)
- b) Queen Elizabeth I (died 1603)
- c) King Offa (died 796)
- d) King Richard I (died 1199)

Please note: the answers are provided and commented on in Handout 9.
Published in this form by the UK Race & Europe Network (UKREN), 2009. Further information at www.youngmuslimcitizens.org.uk

Identity, Empowerment and Change, Handout 9

Answers to quiz in Handout 8

Handout 8 on pages 44–46 contains a number of factual questions about Islam in Britain and the world. The answers are shown and commented on below.

1. Imagine a double-decker bus containing 50 people, and imagine that, with regard to religious background, these 50 people are a cross-section of the whole of the UK population. How many of the 50 would be of Muslim background?

An imaginary double-decker bus with 50 passengers has been chosen for this question since it is easier for most people to visualize than a gathering of one hundred. Official statistics, however, are always based on percentages, so on twice as many people as there are in a full bus.

The 2001 census showed there were at that time almost 1.6 million people of Muslim background in the UK. This was 2.7 per cent of the total population. There are presumably more now, but they are unlikely to constitute more than four per cent. Therefore the correct answer about the passengers on the bus is two at most. This is less, or indeed much less, than most people imagine

2. Imagine a double-decker bus similarly containing 50 people. They are all British Muslims and they are a cross-section of the entire British Muslim population. How many of them would be under 16 years of age?

In 2001, 33.8 per cent of all Muslims were under 16. The proportion is presumably higher now. If it is as high as 40 per cent, 20 out of the 50 people on the bus would be under 16. It is incidentally relevant to note that only 10 (20 per cent) of a busful of non-Muslim people would be in this age-group.

3. How many would have been born in Britain?

The 2001 census showed almost exactly half of all British Muslims had been born in the UK. So 25 of the 50 Muslims on the bus would have been born here.

4. How many would have their origins in South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan), either personally or through their parents or grandparents?

The 2001 census showed that just over two thirds of all British Muslims have their origins in South Asia. So the answer is 34 out of 50.

5. How many would have their origins in Pakistan, either personally or through their parents or grandparents?

Of the 68 per cent of British Muslims who have their origins in South Asia (see answer to Question 4 above), 43 are originally from Pakistan, 17 from Bangladesh and 8 from India. So out of a representative sample of 50 British Muslims, 22 would have origins in Pakistan.

6. How many would live in London?

Two fifths of all British Muslims live in London, so 20 out of 50. The region with the next highest proportion of all Muslims in the UK is the West Midlands (14 per cent). There are almost as many in the North West (13 per cent) and Yorkshire and the Humber (12 per cent).

7. Here are the names of the nine English regions, plus Scotland and Wales. Arrange them in the order of the size of their Muslim population.

- a) Eastern England
- b) East Midlands
- c) London
- d) North East
- e) North West
- f) Scotland
- g) South East
- h) South West
- i) West Midlands
- j) Yorkshire and the Humber
- k) Wales

The answer with raw figures and percentages is shown in the table below.

TABLE 1: The English regions and Scotland ranked in the order of the size of their Muslim population

Ranking	Region	Total population	Number of Muslims	Percentage of Muslims
1	London	7,172,093	607,083	8.5
2	West Midlands	5,267,309	216,184	4.1
3	North West	6,730,765	204,261	3.0
4	Yorkshire	4,900,829	189,088	3.8
5	South East	8,000,645	108,725	1.4
6	East of England	5,390,141	70,222	1.5
7	East Midlands	4,172,171	70,222	1.7
8	Scotland	5,062,011	42,557	0.84
9	North East	2,515,442	26,925	1.1
10	South West	4,928,434	23,465	0.5
11	Wales	2,903,000	22,000	0.7

Source: compiled for this publication from 2001 census results (ONS Table KS07, Religion, and Scottish Government Analysis of Religion, 2005).

8. **There are Muslims in other European countries as well as UK. Which of the following has most?**

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) Italy
- d) The Netherlands

The answer is France, estimated to have just over four million Muslims.

9. **Arrange the countries in the previous question in the order of the size (not percentage) of their Muslim population.**

The answer is shown in the tabulation below, together with estimated raw figures and percentages.

TABLE 2: Four countries in Europe ranked in the order of the size of their Muslim population

Ranking	Country	Total population	Percentage of Muslims	Number of Muslims
1	France	58,317,450	7	4,082,222
2	Germany	83,536,115	3.4	2,840,228
3	Italy	57,460,274	1	574,603
4	The Netherlands	15,568,034	3	467,041

Source: compiled for this publication from estimates at <http://www.islamicweb.com/begin/population.htm>

10. **Here are the names of four countries outside Europe. Which has the largest number of Muslim citizens?**

- a) Iraq
- b) Russia
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Somalia

The answer is shown in the tabulation below, together with estimated raw figures and percentages.

TABLE 3: Four countries outside Europe ranked in the order of the size of their Muslim population

Ranking	Country	Total population	Percentage of Muslims	Number of Muslims
1	Russia	148,178,487	18	26,672,127
2	Iraq	21,422,292	97	20,779,623
3	Saudi Arabia	19,409,058	100	19,409,058
4	Somalia	9,639,151	100	9,639,151

Source: compiled for this publication from estimates at <http://www.islamicweb.com/begin/population.htm>

11. Here are the names of the 10 countries in the world that have the largest numbers of Muslim citizens. Arrange them in the order of the size of their Muslim population:

- a) Bangladesh
- b) China
- c) Egypt
- d) Ethiopia
- e) India
- f) Indonesia
- g) Iran
- h) Nigeria
- i) Pakistan
- j) Turkey

The answer is shown in the table below, together with estimated percentages and raw figures.

TABLE 4: The ten countries in the world with the largest numbers of Muslims, ranked in the order of the size of their Muslim population

Ranking	Country	Total population	Percentage of Muslims	Number of Muslims
1	Indonesia	206,611,600	95	196,281,020
2	India	952,107,694	14	133,295,077
3	China	1,210,004,956	11	133,100,545
4	Pakistan	129,275,660	97	125,397,390
5	Bangladesh	123,062,800	85	104,603,380
6	Nigeria	103,912,489	75	77,934,367
7	Iran	66,094,264	99	65,433,321
8	Turkey	62,484,478	99.8	62,359,509
9	Egypt	63,575,107	94	59,760,601
10	Ethiopia	57,171,662	65	37,161,580

Source: compiled for this publication from estimates at <http://www.islamicweb.com/begin/population.htm>

12. In the previous question, 8 of the 10 countries are Muslim-majority countries. Which two are not?

As readily seen in Table 4, the two countries are India and China.

13. A coin minted in England contains a quotation from Islamic scriptures. Who was monarch at the time?

- e) Queen Anne (died 1714)
- f) Queen Elizabeth I (died 1603)
- g) King Offa (died 796)
- h) King Richard I (died 1199)

The answer is King Offa. The circumstances are not known.

There is substantial information on demographic data worldwide in *Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population*, published by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (<http://pewforum.org/>).