

Key Words

Monotheism	Tawhid	Sawm	Transcendence	Zakat	Rakat	Immanence	Beneficence	Du’ah
Shahadah	Hajj	Shirk	Sadaqah	Qur’an	Mihrab	Salat	Muezzin	Qiblah
Omnipotence	Adhan	Sunnah	Allah (99 names)	Islam	Minaret	Merciful	Halal	Hadith

Rakats

Prayers are based on a sequence of movements called rakats and different prayer times require a different number of rakats. The faithful face the mihrab, an alcove located in the qibla wall. This indicates the direction of Mecca.

Each rakat involves the following movements:

Takbir	standing facing Mecca with hands raised to head height saying ‘Allahu Akbar’ (God is great).
Qiyaam	still standing with hands usually on chest saying a short prayer of supplication.
Ruku	bowing and concentrating saying ‘glory to God, the Most Great’.
Brief Qiyaam	hands to the side and returning to upright position.
Sujud	‘glory be to God, the Most High’ repeated three times whilst prostrate: forehead and nose touching the ground.
Brief sitting	a quiet moment’s pause.
Sujud	as above.
Tashahhud	back to sitting position but saying prayers praising God and blessing the Prophet with peace. Peace to the right and peace to the left wishing peace to all. Du’ah is private prayer that can follow communal prayers.

Key Sources of Authority

Qur’an Hadith Sunnah