

Who should get to be in charge?

Religion and Worldviews | Years 5 & 6 | Summer Term 2025-26

Theology

Muslims believe Muhammad was the final Prophet of Allah (God) who received the Literal words of Allah, The Qur'an, to share with others.

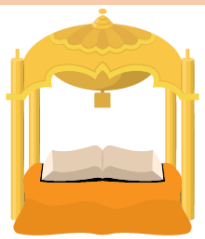


When Muhammad died, some people thought his cousin (bloodline) should be his successor; others thought his good friend should be successor. This caused a split with the ummah, with different groups following different leaders, but both sharing the same goal and message.

Guru Nanak is believed to have received God's message and teachings to share with others. Before he died, he chose Guru Angad to be his successor due to his virtues and commitment to his beliefs. Each Guru was chosen based on their virtues rather than bloodline, though some were related to their successor.



Guru Gobind Singh chose the written words of the Gurus to be the final and eternal Guru: the Guru Granth Sahib.



Social Sciences

Religious laws are generally shared by God with an anointed person. They are interpreted and followed by the religious community.



Secular laws are generally suggested and discussed by the country or community's leaders. They should help people lead good and safe lives.



Leaders are often chosen by the person before them, the community or by bloodline (genetic or biological family links).



Philosophy

Wisdom means thinking sensibly and taking into account knowledge and experience.

Leadership and authority can impact people's worldviews. Worldviews impact the process of choosing leadership and authority.

Vocabulary

Anointed: chosen by a higher power for a specific role or responsibility.

Compassion: feeling kindness and a desire to help others who are suffering or in trouble.

Hadith: a collection of recorded practices, sayings and advice of the Prophet Muhammad, providing guidance to Muslims.

Humility: the quality of not thinking you are better than others and recognising everyone's value.

Interpretation: an explanation or understanding of what something means.

Law: A rule that everyone in a place must follow, decided by the people in charge.

Religious law: rules that come from the interpretation of religious teachings.

Secular: not being connected to any religious or spiritual ideas.

Succession: when someone takes over a position or title from the person before them.


Ummah: the community of Muslims all over the world.

Virtue / value: a good quality, like being kind, honest or patient.

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Key Learning: To explore how leaders can be chosen for leadership characteristics.

- 1 How are laws created?**
Explore the creation of laws and teachings – both religious and secular – within communities. Identify where laws might come from and analyse the similarities and differences in the processes of law-making. Discuss why some leaders have religious authority.
- 2 How is a leader chosen?**
Explore the concept of succession in religious and secular society, understanding how some leaders are believed to be anointed, others are chosen through bloodline and some are chosen through election or nomination. Recognise why there are different ideas about succession in the Muslim worldview and recall what happened after the death of Muhammad. Discuss why there are different ideas within a worldview.
- 3 Where do religious laws come from?**
Identify some examples of religious laws and how they might relate to scripture. Understand how religious laws could be interpreted differently. Think about how some communities create and live by some religious laws.
- 4 How did Guru Nanak choose a successor?**
Describe the process and qualities important in selecting Sikh Gurus, identifying the key Sikh Gurus and their contributions. Compare the selection of Sikh Gurus with leadership choices in other religions, discussing similarities and differences in leadership selection across different beliefs.
- 5 When can someone become a leader?**
 Explore leadership qualities through monarchs and religious leaders, evaluating how virtues, selection methods and age impact leadership. Identify and discuss the key qualities of leaders from different backgrounds and how they were chosen. Compare and contrast the leadership qualities and evaluate what qualifies someone as a good leader.
- 6 How can religious texts be leaders?**
Explain how the Guru Granth Sahib can be a guiding, living leader in the Sikh worldview. Analyse illustrations of Guru Gobind Singh to find clues about his leadership. Compare Guru Granth Sahib's role to that of other leaders. Explain how teachings in the Guru Granth Sahib guide followers.