**((Advisement 🡪 You can focus on explain about Muhammad and the Islamic religion and the five obligations.**

**After we´ll do listening and spoken interaction exercises))**

**Information for your explanation**

**WHAT IS ISLAM?**

**MUHAMMAD, THE FOUNDER OF ISLAM**

Arabia is a large peninsula in Asia, between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Arabs lived in tribes and these tribes were often in conflict with each other. Each tribe had its own beliefs. All of them, however, were polytheists, and Mecca was their holy city. Muhammad was a merchant /ˈmɜːtʃənt/ from Mecca. He learned about two monotheistic religions: Judaism and Christianity. Muhammad heard the call of God and preached a new religion: Islam. Islam taught the people should worship Allah, the Muslim name for their only God. The rich merchants of Mecca thought that Muhammad was a danger to society. Consequently, he moved to Medina in 622. This date is known as the Hegira, and marks the start of the Muslim calendar. Muhammad formed a powerful army and in 628 he conquered Mecca. From there, Islam spread throughout Arabia.

**ISLAMIC RELIGION**

The Koran is the sacred book of the Muslims.

Islamic doctrine says that all Muslims have five obligations. These are called the five pillars of their faith :

• Shahadah: to testify that there is no other God but Allah, and Muhammad is Allah’s Prophet.

• Salah: to pray five times a day.

• Hajj: to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime if possible.

• Sawm: to fast during the month of Ramadan.

• Zakah: to give the poor alms.

Initially, Muslims spread their religion through jihad or holy war. Today only extremist groups believe in this idea.

**A BRILLIANT CIVILIZATION**

The Islamic economy was based on agricultura, craftsmanship and trade. Merchants travelled by land and sea. They bought cloth and spices in Asia, gold, ivory and slaves in Africa, and metals in Europe. Great cities included Damascus, Baghdad, Córdoba and Cairo. The souk /suːk/ or market was the centre of a city’s activity. The Muslims introduced Asian inventions such as gunpowder and the compass. They invented the use of zero, Arabic numerals, and algebra. They also made important contributions to medicine.

**THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM**

After Mohammad’s death, the Muslim army extended the new religion through the Jihad or holy war. They created a great empire. The expansion was undertaken in three phases:

* During the Orthodox caliphate (632-661), the Muslims conquered Syria, Palestine, Persia and Egypt.
* The Omeya caliphate (661-750), the capital of the empire was moved to Damascus. This dynasty expanded through northern Africa and conquered the Iberian Peninsula. However, it was unsuccessful in its efforts to defeat the Byzantines. An internal revolt gave the power to the Abassids.
* With the Abassid dynasty (750-1258), the capital was established in Baghdad. Because of numerous internal struggles to seize power, the decline of the empire started.

EXERCISES:

LISTEN TO OUR TEACHING ASSISTANT AND COMPLETE THE NEXT TEXT.

The word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has two meanings. On the one hand, it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ preached by Mohammad in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ century. On the other, it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conquered by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ centuries. The Islamic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ started in Arabia, a vast desert area. The\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Arabian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were organized in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which were constantly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and there was no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or cultural and religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to unite them. Most of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Mohammad the founder of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Mohammad, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Allah, was born in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Mecca in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into a family of wealthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At the age of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he started to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a new\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Islam, which means submission to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(YOU READ THE TEXT AND THE STUDENTS FILL IN THE GAPS)

The word Islam has two meanings. On the one hand, it is the religion preached by Mohammad in the 7th century. On the other, it is the empire conquered by the Muslims during the 7th and 8th centuries.

The Islamic religion started in Arabia, a vast desert area. The inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula were organized in tribes which were constantly fighting and there was no political or cultural and religious power to unite them. Most of the tribes were polytheistic.

Mohammad the founder of Islam

Mohammad, the prophet of Allah, was born in the city of Mecca in 571 into a family of wealthy merchants. At the age of 40, he started to preach a new religion, Islam, which means submission to God

**SPOKEN INTERACTION**

1. Where did Islam originate?
2. How did Islam originate?
3. Where is Arabia?
4. How did the Arabs live?
5. What religion did the Arabs have?
6. Who was Muhammad?
7. What did Muhammad do?
8. How is this date 622 known?
9. What does the Hegira mark?
10. What is the Koran?
11. How many obligations do all Muslims have?