Death in Islam

At Death

* As death approaches, the family gather round. The dying one asks for blessings and forgiveness from God and their family.
* The **Shahadah** is repeated as death nears.

Preparation of body

* The body is very gently washed 3 times in the same way as is for daily prayer (**wudu**).
* The body is anointed with perfume and wrapped in sheets of white unsewn cloth (as on **Hajj**)

The Funeral and burial

* The funeral itself is simple and inexpensive. The service is held in a mosque or cemetery. The body is buried with the face turned towards **Makkah**, it is never cremated.
* Graves are raised above ground level, large tombstones or decorations are discouraged as material possessions and wealth are of no use to the dead.
* The words '*In the name of God we commit you to the earth, according to the way of the Prophet of God'* are said as the body is lowered.
* **Prayers** are said for the deceased, the deceased’s family. They are followed by appropriate readings from the **Qur'an.**

Mourning

* Mourning should last no more than 3 days.
* It is usual for people to visit and provide food so that the family can mourn in peace without having to worry about anything else.
* Graves are visited regularly and in particular at festival times.

Key Words-

Shahadah – Declaration of Faith- summary of core beliefs

Wudu- Ritual washing in preparation for prayer

Hajj- Pilgrimmage to Makkah

Makkah- City where pilgrimage takes place

Qur’an- Muslim holy book