

# The dignity of the person in different religions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Four Friends and their faiths



Different people have different experiences with their religion. In this passage you will read a conversation between four school-friends with different faiths.

**Rebecca:** *Religion is really important in my family. We are Jewish and we follow the Torah which has 613 commandments, so there's a lot to remember.*

**Maham:** *What do you eat at home, do you have loads of rules about food?*

**Rebecca:** *We can only eat certain kinds of meat that are kosher - so they are killed and prepared in a certain way, and we can't go to non-kosher restaurants. How about you?*

**Maham:** *In our religion, Islam, we also have a lot of rules about food. Our meat has to be halal which also means it must be killed in a certain way and blessed by a Muslim while the animal is being slaughtered. We are also supposed to pray five times a day. I'm fourteen now, so I should be doing that. It's hard because of my schedule, but I try harder now than I used to. I used to hang out with my friends a lot more, but now I believe more in the rituals. We have Ramadan coming up next week which is supposed to help me become a better Muslim.*

**Sara:** *What's Ramadan?*

**Maham:** *It's when we fast for thirty days, so we only eat after sunset and before sunrise and during the day. Instead of eating during the day, we try to focus on prayer. It makes us better Muslims.*

**Sara:** *I've noticed that your mom wears a headscarf - is that also part of your religion?*

**Maham:** *Yes, that's called a hijab. In our religion, many women wear them as a sign of submitting to God, and my mom says it reminds her of her beliefs and to be honest and generous. What do you believe in, Sara?*

**Sara:** *I'm a member of the United Methodist Church. I was confirmed last year and I thought about other religions quite a lot, but being a Christian just seems right for me.*

*When I go to church and see the cross, I feel like God is right there with me. I think that's what's important - that you follow a religion that you feel you belong to.*

**Tapiwa:** *I'm not really sure about what my parents believe in, but I do respect their beliefs. They are always telling me that the spirits of our ancestors are watching us and that I must do the right thing or they will be unhappy. Maybe they are right but I have a lot of questions about God in general. My family is also really important to me though, and we all try to help each other if anyone needs anything.*

**Rebecca:** *Yes, family is a big priority in my religion too. I am with my family from Friday night until Saturday night. I don't go out on Friday or Saturday nights, so sometimes I feel sad that I'm missing out. School plays are usually on Friday nights so I don't audition for those anymore. Saturday is supposed to be a day of rest for us so if I don't finish my homework on Friday, then I do it on Sunday.*

**Tapiwa:** *Doesn't that feel like a burden - how can you give up so much because of your religion?*

**Rebecca:** *I see it as a positive experience and that I am building a strong faith; it is something I choose to do.*

**Tapiwa:** *I really admire your commitment.*

**Loosely adapted from** <https://bit.ly/2SEdvql>

**Questions:**

1. What are two things that are important to Rebecca in her religion? (2 marks)

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2. Which of the four people in the conversation is not sure about what he or she believes and why do you say that? (2 marks)

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3. Why do people who follow Judaism (the Jewish religion) prepare all of Saturday's food on a Friday? (1 mark)

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4. Why did Rebecca not think that staying in on Friday's and Saturday's was not a burden? (2 marks)

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5. What is the purpose of Ramadan in Maham's opinion? (1 mark)

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6. What does Sara feel when she is at church and looks at the cross? (1 mark)

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7. What does Tapiwa believe about family? (1 mark)

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8. Which of the four students in the story do you relate to the most, and why? (2 marks)

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**Total marks: \_\_\_\_\_ / 12**

# Memorandum

1. What are **two** things that are important to Rebecca in her religion? (2 marks)

*For two marks, any two of the following:*

- **Following the commands of the Torah**
- **Eating only meat that is kosher**
- **Family**
- **Not working on Saturdays**
- **Staying home on Friday and Saturday nights**

2. Which of the four people in the conversation is not sure about what he or she believes and why do you say that? (2 marks)

*For two marks:*

**Tapiwa is not sure about what he believes, because he says that he has doubts about what his parents believe and he has a lot of questions about God in general.**

3. Why do people who follow Judaism (the Jewish religion) prepare all of Saturday's food on a Friday? (1 mark)

*For one mark:*

**They believe that Saturday should be a day of rest and therefore no food preparation should happen on Saturdays.**

4. Why did Rebecca not think that staying in on Friday's and Saturday's was not a burden? (2 marks)

*For two marks, any two of the following:*

- **Rebecca sees it as her choice**
- **She sees it as a sign of her commitment to her faith**
- **She believes that it is making her faith stronger**

5. What is the purpose of Ramadan in Maham's opinion? (1 mark)

*For one mark, either of the following:*

- Maham believes that by fasting for thirty days,**
- **he will have an opportunity to focus more on prayer**
  - **it will make him a better Muslim.**

6. What does Sara feel when she is at church and looks at the cross? (1 mark)

*For one mark:*

**Sara feels that God is right there with her.**

7. What does Tapiwa believe about family? (1 mark)

*For one mark:*

***He believes that all the family members must work together to help each other if anyone in the family needs anything.***

8. Which of the four students in the story do you relate to the most, and why? (2 marks)

***For two marks, any appropriate response from learner.***

**Total marks: \_\_\_\_\_ / 12**