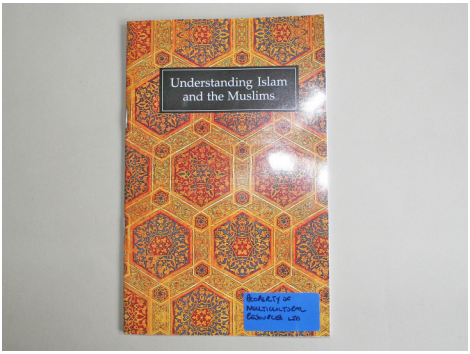

Understanding Islam and the Muslims

Nearly one quarter of the world's population follows the religion that was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed.

Islam is generally used in conversation to denote the religion or community of believes as a whole. For instance: 'The Islamic community in town will be celebrating Eid next week.' It is also used when talking about the religion as a noun unto itself. For instance: 'Islam is based on the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed.

Muslim is generally used in conversation to qualify or distinguish a person. For instance, 'Remember the Muslim man who works at the bank?' It can also be used as a simple description of one's religious beliefs. For instance: 'He is Christian but she is Muslim.' Because Muslims are a minority community in many countries and most of the West, describing someone as Muslim may also reflect on their lifestyle and choice of dress in addition to their religious beliefs.