

Learners should be able to explain and apply these terms in relation to the themes:

1. **Baisakhi** – The Sikh harvest festival that also marks the day in which Guru Gobind Singh formed the first Khalsa in 1699.
2. **Caste** – A class structure determined by birth; social groups assigned by birth not personality.
3. **Chauri** – A fan, generally made from yak's hair, and waved over the Guru Granth Sahib as a sign of divinity.
4. **Cremation** – To reduce a dead body to ashes as part of a funeral rite.
5. **Diwali** – For Sikhs, this marks the day in which Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru, and 52 princes were released from prison.
6. **Granthi** – Someone who reads the Guru Granth Sahib at religious festivals or through acts of worship. It may be a man or a woman.
7. **Gurpurbs** – The celebrations of the anniversary of the birth or death of a Guru. Gurpurbs is also a celebration of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604.
8. **Guru Arjan** – The fifth of ten Gurus who compiled the Adi Granth – and was martyred for refusing to remove Hindu and Islamic references.
9. **Guru Gobind Singh** – The last of the ten Gurus who organised Sikhs into the Khalsa to fight Mughal oppression and made the GGS the successor.
10. **Khalsa** – The community of fully initiated Sikhs. They have undergone the initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanskar.
11. **Lavan** – Wedding hymn composed by Guru Ram Das and sung as part of the marriage ceremony.
12. **Martyrdom** – The death or suffering of a person killed because of their religious or other beliefs.

## Other useful terms:

1. **5 Ks** – Refer to the five features or items that Khalsa Sikhs wear at all times to show their identity.
2. **Amritdhari** – The term given to a Sikh who has undergone the initiation ceremony of Amrit Sanskar.
3. **Aardas** – A prayer that is said at the start and/or end of a significant task. For example it is often said during the Amrit Sanskar.
4. **Ahankar** – Ego, pride or self-centredness. Considered the worst of the five evils.

5. Akhand Path – The continual reading of the Guru Granth Sahib over a 48-hour period and usually performed by a team of readers.
6. Amrit Sanskar – The name given to the ceremony that initiates a person into the Khalsa.
7. Anand Karaj – The Sikh marriage ceremony. Roughly translates as ‘ceremony of bliss’ or ‘joyful union’.
8. Anandpur – Known as the ‘holy city of bliss’ where the Panj Piaras, the first five initiated into the Khalsa, was formed.
9. Antam Sanskar – The term given to the funeral rite in Sikhism.
10. Atma – The non-physical part of us (soul) that is believed to be immortal.
11. Daswandh – The religious duty of giving one tenth of earnings and time toward the common resources of the community. This may be given to the Gurdwara to help support the langar and other acts of sewa.
12. Gurdwara – This is the name given to a Sikh place of worship; it means ‘Gateway to the Guru’.
13. Gurbani – The writings of the Gurus.
14. Gurmukh – Someone who has become God-centred rather than self-centred (manmukh).
15. Guru – Translates as ‘teacher’ or ‘spiritual leader’.
16. Guru Amar Das – The third of ten Gurus. He started the langar to remove caste distinctions and establish social cohesion.
17. Guru Granth Sahib – The sacred scripture of Sikhism that is regarded as the revealed Word of God.
18. Guru Nanak – The founder of Sikhism who was well educated in Eastern and Western scriptures and synthesised Hindu and Islamic teaching.
19. Haumai – Pride, ego or self-centredness.
20. Hukam – The commanded will of God.
21. Ik Onkar – Is found at the beginning of the mool mantra and means ‘There is only one God’.
22. Janam Sakhi – The bibliographic account of the lives of Guru Nanak or the other Gurus.
23. Jap – The repetition of the divine name of God, or a scripture.
24. Jivan Mukti – The belief that a person may achieve spiritual liberation during their lifetime and not only upon death.
25. Karma – The belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atma will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. One could gain positive and/or negative karma.

26. Kacch – One of the five Ks worn by a member of the Khalsa. These are shorts worn to remind them of the clothes worn by soldiers who fought for the faith. They also symbolise continence.
27. Kangha – One of the five Ks worn by a member of the Khalsa. This is the comb that reminds them that God is there to remove the tangles from their life and can always be turned to.
28. Kara – One of the five Ks worn by a member of the Khalsa. This is the bangle that reminds them that God is eternal.
29. Karah Parshad – A sweet substance made from semolina, sugar and ghee that is served at religious ceremonies in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib.
30. Kesh – One of the five Ks worn by a member of the Khalsa. Not cutting one's hair has many symbolic meanings including the rejection of pride and the appreciation of God's gift of creation.
31. Kirpan – One of the five Ks worn by a member of the Khalsa. This is the dagger worn to symbolise defence against attack and the protection of those who are oppressed.
32. Kirtan Sohila – The 'evening prayer' recited, as part of the funeral rite, while the coffin burns.
33. Langar – The free community kitchen found in all Gurdwaras. This is a cornerstone of the Sikh religion, showing equality, and was founded by Guru Nanak before being institutionalised by Guru Amar Das.
34. Mool Mantra – Means 'basic teaching' and are the first statements of each section of the Guru Granth Sahib. These underpin the Sikh religion and are the basic beliefs about the nature of God.
35. Mukti – Spiritual liberation from the cycle of birth and death.
36. Nitnem – The daily prayers Sikhs are expected to read.
37. Panth – The entire Sikh community.
38. Rebirth – The belief that the soul will be reborn into a new body, either a human or animal, depending on the actions of their life.
39. Sangat – The holy congregation gathered in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib.
40. Sahajdhari – Means 'slow adopter' and refers to those who follow Sikhism but have yet to be initiated into the Khalsa.
41. Sewa – Service to fellow human beings; acts of kindness or charity.
42. Sewa Panthi – The title given to a Sikh person whose life is dedicated to the service of the Sikh Community.
43. Shabads – Hymns from the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.
44. Singh/Kaur – Singh means 'lion' and Kaur means 'princess' and is often the middle or last

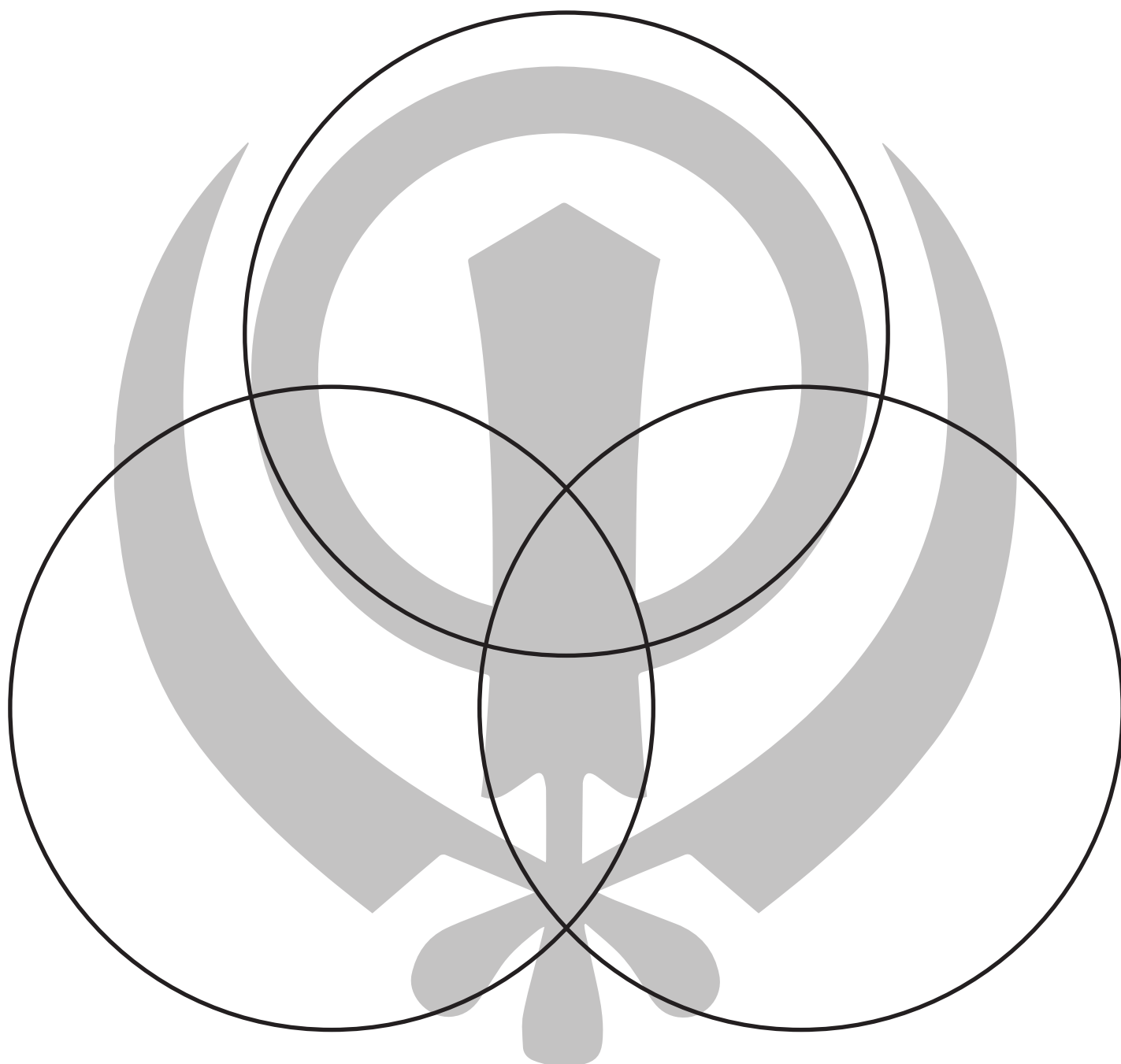
name of a Sikh male or female respectively. It is the mandatory last name for a Khalsa Sikh.

45. Sukhmani – The ‘Hymn of Peace’ recited as part of the funeral rite.
46. Vaak – The random reading of a hymn from the Guru Granth Sahib.
47. Waheguru – Term used to refer to God; the Supreme Being. Literally means ‘wonderful teacher’.

## Sikh Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

You are presented with a number of key terms that relate to the topics covered as part of this unit of work. Can you place them in the appropriate sections of the Venn? The terms either relate to Sikh beliefs, teachings, practices or a combination of three. Discuss with your classmate why you have placed it where you have.

Beliefs



Teachings

Practices