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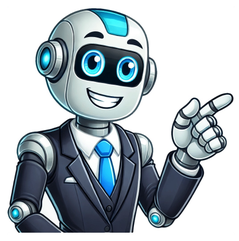

Download Article Learn all the Islamic requirements for a complete and legal Nikah ceremony Download Article If you're a Muslim who was recently engaged, congratulations! Your next step is the Nikah (also spelled "Nikkah"), where you'll sign the marriage contract. The ceremony itself is pretty short and sweet, but there are a few Qu'ranic requirements to fulfill. Read on to learn the specific religious requirements for this ceremony, how a basic Nikah ceremony would go, and what to expect if you're a guest at a Nikah for the first time. A Nikah is an Islamic marriage ceremony where a man and woman sign a marriage contract. The ceremony requires the bride's father or male relative, 2 adult Muslim witnesses, and an imam or other Muslim officiant.[1] The couple signs the contract along with the witnesses. Then, they receive a blessing from the officiant.1Mutual consent agreement Consent is the cornerstone of any Islamic marriage. This means that, regardless of which one of you proposed, both of you have agreed that you want to join in a marriage contract together and be life partners.[2][3]Mutual consent is typically expressed verbally, although it might also be mentioned in your written contract. 2A representative of the bride's family Traditionally, this is the bride's father. But if her father isn't available, it might be her grandfather, an older brother, or even an uncle. This man, her "wali," technically "gives" the bride to the groom.[4][5]Some mosques suggest that both the bride's father and brother (if she has one) attend the ceremony with her.In addition to her father, some mosques require the bride to have an additional family member present to serve as her guardian or "wakeel."[6] Advertisement 3At least 2 adult Muslim witnesses These witnesses are separate from the bride's representatives or guardians. They are simply there as legal witnesses to the signing of the marriage contract.[7] Traditionally, you need 2 male Muslim witnessesalthough some venues allow 1 man and 2 women.[8]Some mosques require that your witnesses personally know both the bride and the groom, or at least the bride.[9]The bride's wali normally cannot also serve as a witness. But if the bride's brother is also present, he could be a witness.4A gift to the bride from the groom This gift, the "Mahr," is a symbol of the groom's promise to care for and provide for the bride. Traditionally, it's a lump sum of money, but it could also be property or an agreement to pay for education or a similar experience. The groom might physically give the Mahr to the bride during the Nikah, or it might be deferred to some time in the future.[10]The recommended Mahr is modest and limited by law in some countries. For example, in the UAE, Mahr is limited to AED 20,000 (or AED 30,000 for deferred Mahr).Talk to your betrothed about the Mahr well before the Nikah and make sure you're both on the same page about what it will be. Your families might want input as welltraditionally, the bride's family has some say in the size of the Nikah.5Written marriage contract The imam who performs your Nikah may have sample marriage contracts that you can adapt for your own needs, but you're also free to bring your own. The contract simply lists the promises that the bride and groom make to each other.[11]What you promise in the contract is totally up to you. For example, a groom might promise to support his bride as she completes her college education.6Official Islamic officiant (usually an imam) The imam of a local mosque will typically be your officiant, but others can take on this role as well. Your officiant only needs to be a devout Muslim.[12]Traditionally, officiants are men, but some more progressive communities allow female officiants. It's really up to you as a couple who you choose.7Venue Many Nikah ceremonies are performed at mosques, but you might also choose to have it at a family home, a hotel, or any other event space. There's no requirement that the ceremony be performed at a mosque, this is just the most traditional option.[13]You could also have the ceremony at a mosque and then follow up with a banquet later at the groom's family home or another location. Just keep in mind that Islamic principles discourage lavish spending for these sorts of events.[14]8Pre-marital counseling While this isn't a religious requirement, many imams require the bride and groom to complete counseling before they'll officiate the wedding. This is also a requirement for any marriage in many US states.[15]The counseling session is typically conducted by the imam who will be officiating and usually only takes an hour or two.In places where this is a requirement, it's only because the imam has to attest to the local government that they believe the couple is ready to be married.9Local government marriage license Most mosques, and most imams, require you to get the local government paperwork completed before you have your Nikah.[16]If you're getting married in an Islamic country, the imam usually takes care of registering the marriage with the government for you after the Nikah is complete. Advertisement 1Arrive at the venue separately from each other. If you're having your ceremony at a mosque, genders will be segregated. But even at another venue, it's common practice for the bride and groom to avoid seeing each other on the day of the ceremony until the actual ceremony takes place and they see each other on stage for the first time.[17]Typically, the bride and groom will be brought out to the stage separately as well. There might also be a wall or curtain separating you for most of the ceremony.2Listen to the sermon recited by the imam. If you have an imam officiating your Nikah, they'll typically start with a traditional sermon about marriage and the commitment you're making. These typically include specific prayers and readings from the Qur'an.[18]If someone other than an imam is officiating your Nikah, they likely won't give a full sermon. They might recite from the Qur'an, though.There is never any music during the Nikahit is absolutely haraam, or forbidden.[19]3Indicate your acceptance of the marriage by saying "I accept." The specific formulation of this exchange can vary depending on your culture, but basically, the bride says that she gives herself away to you in Nikah on the agreed Mahr, and then the groom says that he accepts. The words also might be said by the imam, with the groom saying "I accept."[20][21]In some Nikah ceremonies, the imam will ask the question to both the bride and the groom, each of whom must say "I accept," or "I do." You'll go over this with your officiant before the ceremony, so you'll know what to say.[22]4Sign the written marriage contract. Typically, there will be an ornate table set up for the couple to sign the written contract. The witnesses then sign as well. When everyone's signed, the marriage is official under Islamic law.[23]Some imams prefer if the witnesses go ahead and sign the contract before the ceremony itself. This just helps things run a little more smoothly because you're not waiting for 4 or 5 people to sign a piece of paper.[24]5Accept the Imam's blessing of the marriage. The Nikah ceremony ends with a short blessing upon the newly married couple. This typically lasts only a minute or two, and then the ceremony is done.[25]6Announce your marriage to the public. With the ceremony complete, the imam will introduce the married couple to all the guests present. Typically, a banquet follows the ceremony, to which the couple and their families invite all of their friends, neighbors, and far-flung relatives to attend.[26]The size and scale of the banquet varies greatly among cultures, and also depends on the finances available. Islamic principles caution against lavish spending, but what you consider "lavish" depends on the size of your bank account!It's perfectly acceptable to wait a few days after the Nikah to have your banquet. There's no religious requirement that the banquet immediately follow the ceremony. Advertisement 1Dress in brightly colored modest attire. Weddings are a celebration and bright, festive garments are the norm. Just make sure that your arms and legs are completely covered, regardless of your genderespecially if the Nikah is held in a mosque. If you're a woman, bring along a scarf to cover your head as well.[27]Cultural traditions vary, so talk to the bride or groom about expected attirethey'll be able to give you some helpful suggestions.2Remove your shoes before entering a mosque. Wear shoes that you can easily slip on and off your feet because you'll be expected to take off your shoes before going into the mosque. And as you're getting ready, remember that whatever socks or hosiery you put on will be seen by everyone at the Nikah.[28]Add a small mark or sticker to the inside of your shoes so you can easily identify which ones are yours when you leave.3Bring a gift for the bride and groom. Gifts are a huge part of the Islamic tradition, and it's customary for guests to bring a gift for the newly wedded couple. It's possible that they'll have a wedding registry you can choose from, and cash is always a welcome option as well. If you're thinking about going with a more traditional gift option, here are some ideas:[29]His and hers attar set: Traditional Muslim and Arab cultures predominantly use these alcohol-free perfumes. They're a long-lasting and thoughtful gift.Islamic calligraphy canvas: Because Islam forbids art that depicts living things, calligraphy is a popular choice to decorate Islamic homes.99 Names of Allah painting: This is another decorative item sure to be appreciated by a Muslim bride and groom.4Avoid mingling with people of other genders. This is especially true if the Nikah is held in a mosque, where genders are absolutely segregated. But even if the Nikah takes place in another location, the families or officiated imam might still be strict about this. Err on the side of caution and don't extend your hand or offer a hug to someone from another gender.[30]At the banquet after the Nikah, things are usually a little looser. But you'll likely notice that men largely stay with men and women with women. Just follow what other people are doing and you'll be fine. Advertisement Add New Question Question How do I perform Nikah as a Female Qazi? Shaykh Mekaeel is an Imam at the Islamic Community of Salinas in Salinas, California. He is the founder of the Voyagers of Knowledge YouTube channel, which creates Islamic educational content. He attended the Islamic University of Madinah and earned a degree from the school of Da'wah and Usuluddeen. So, Nikah, for it to be done, there's condition number one: she needs to give her permission. She has authority in this; if she says no, the wedding's over. Number two, the groom also needs to want to get married. Number three: it needs the permission of the guardian of the bride. And number four, it needs two witnesses. These are the preconditions. But once these happen in a marriage, what needs to be done? So the father of the bride is going to say I would be with you, my daughter. And the groom will then say, I accept the marriage of your daughter while two witnesses are there, and that's it. Question If the bride wants to go to her parents' house for 4 to 5 hours after the nikah in the mosque, can the groom come to the bride's house? After the nikah, the couple are now, Islamically, officially married. They are allowed to be together. Question I have no male relatives and am a revert. Who can act as witness for me? Contact an imam at a local mosque; tell him your situation. He will act as your wali. See more answers Ask a Question Advertisement Thanks Thanks Advertisement Thanks Advertisement Thanks for reading our article! If youd like to learn more about nikah, check out our in-depth interview with Mekaeel Mohsin. This article was co-authored by Mekaeel Mohsin and by wikiHow staff writer, Jennifer Mueller, JD. Shaykh Mekaeel is an Imam at the Islamic Community of Salinas in Salinas, California. He is the founder of the Voyagers of Knowledge YouTube channel, which creates Islamic educational content. He attended the Islamic University of Madinah and earned a degree from the school of Da'wah and Usuluddeen. This article has been viewed 596,261 times. Co-authors: 6 Updated: February 12, 2025 Views:596,261 Categories: Islam Article SummaryXTo perform the nikah as a part of a traditional Islamic marriage, start by obtaining an official marriage license from your local government. Then, find a mosque to hold the ceremony, an imam to perform it, and at least 2 adult Muslims to serve as witnesses. If you want to be especially traditional, ensure the bride has a guardian present, as well. Next, you'll need to agree on a mahr, which the groom will gift the bride as a symbol of his commitment. Although a mahr is traditionally a sum of money, the groom could show his commitment in other ways, like reciting the bride's favorite Quran verses. Once the imam gives the marriage sermon, sign the nikah contract in front of your witnesses to make your union official. For more tips, including how to hold a walima or marriage banquet, read on! PrintSend fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 596,261 times. "I was actually having cold feet on performing Nikah. But after reading this article, I was full of smiles. It turns out Nikah is actually a very lovely thing to do. Thank you to those who put up this article, may Allah SWT continue to increase you in knowledge."..." more Share your story Yaa ayyahulladheena aamanu-ttaquLlaaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedan.(Arabic)(O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth).[al-Ahzaab 33:70].Al-Nisaai reported that Abd-Allaah ibn Masood (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet ? taught us Khutbat al-Haajah: Al-hamdu Lillaahi nastaeenahu wa nastaghfiruhu, wa naoodhu billaahi min shuroori anfusinaa wa sayiaati amaalinaa. Man yahdih Illaahu falaa mudilla lahu wa man yudlil falaa haadiya lahu. Wa ashhadu an laa ilaaha ill-Allaah wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasooluhu(Praise be to Allah, we seek His help and His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our own souls and from our bad deeds. Whomsoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whomsoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger).(Sunan al-Nisaai: Kitaab al-Jumuah, Baab kayfiyyah al-khutbah.The ceremony draws to a close with Duaa for the bride and groom, their families, the local Muslim community and the Muslim community as a whole (ummah).Haq Mehr (Dower)It is written in the Quran that Mehr (Dower) must form part of the marriage contract. The groom gives Mehr to his bride as a demonstration of his commitment to her and to providing for her. It can take the form of money, property or possessions. There is no set amount, although moderation is recommended, and the gift is agreed between the bride and the groom.And give the women their dowries as a free gift, but if they are pleased to offer you any of it accept it with happiness and with wholesome pleasure.[Quran 4:4]The groom may pay the Mehr before he marries, at the time of marriage, or at a later date, as agreed with his bride. The mehr can even be postponed indefinitely. However, it will become payable immediately in the case of divorce or death. The amount and method of payment is written into a contract, which is signed by the bride, groom and their witnesses. Following this, the Aqd-Nikah is announced to all who attend the nikahceremony.Traditionally, mehr would reflect the social status of the brides family. However, these days, the giving of mehr is seen mainly as a symbol. No one wants to begin married life burdened with debt and, equally, Islam does not wish to prevent men from getting married simply because they cannot afford an expensive dowry.Walima In Islam: The Marriage BanquetThe Wedding Wanquet (Walima) is traditionally held by the groom after the Nikahceremonyhas taken place. It may take place immediately following the Nikah, on the following day, the following week or at a future date, but the purpose of the banquet is for family and friends to share in the grooms happiness on the occasion of his marriage and to give thanks to Allah.The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encouraged Muslims to accept invitations to attend marriage ceremonies and marriage feasts: and the person who refuses to accept an invitation to a marriage feast, verily disobeys Allah and His Prophet. [Ahmad & Abu Dawood]The Walima should not be wildly expensive. Islam emphasizes moderation and it is sensible to keep this in mind. No one should start their married life with a huge debt, or to burden the families with debt, owing to an extravagant Walima. It is an occasion to celebrate the happiness of the newlyweds and competing with what you may have experienced at a friend or relatives Walima will most likely lead to escalating costs and distract you from the occasion.The Prophet (PBUH) said: The best wedding is that upon which the least trouble and expense is bestowed. [Mishkat]The Walima gives family members and friends the opportunity to congratulate the happy couple. The bride is congratulated by the women around her and by her family and friends;The groom receives the congratulations of men. The newlyweds are also presented with gifts. It is believed that gifts given willingly will strengthen the relationships between people. Therefore, it is important to keep gifts affordable.The Prophet (PBUH) said: Exchange gifts, strengthen your love of one another. [At-Tirmizi]You may decide to have Nalima after Nikahceremonyon same, it is ok to do so. Maybe to save time, costs and travelling. The husband and wife should spend some time together after Nikah..then do the Walima. They do not need to consummate prior to Walima. This is a wrong concept that some people hold.Other traditionsRemember these are traditions and a cultural neccessity in certain countries. It is not a requirement in Islam. A mangni (engagement ceremony) may take place once the couple has accepted each other for marriage. It is provides an opportunity for the two families to come together and for the couple to exchange rings, if they so wish. This is not a religious requirement but cultural. Actually in Islam there is no exchange of rings. The outfit of the bride-to-be is traditionally provided by the grooms family.It is traditional, but not a religious requirement for the bride to hold a mendhi ceremony, usually at home, shortly before the wedding. The grooms family provides the henna, which is applied to the brides hands and feet. Following the application of mendhi, the bride does not leave the house until the Nikah. Her wedding clothes are also provided by the grooms family.Please note again: It is not a religious requirement for the bride and groom to exchange rings in marriage; however it has become tradition and culture dictates it. Gold jewelry is acceptable for women only, although silver rings may be worn by both men or women.Sunnah Of Wedding Night In IslamAnticipation of the wedding night can be a cause of wedding day nerves for most Newlyweds, but do try not to let any apprehension spoil your special day. If you know what is expected on this special night, you can reduce the feelings of uncertainty.The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has described for us ways in which the Wedding night can be fulfilling and enjoyable. The Sunnah encourages the groom to place his hands upon his wifes head and to pray for her.In the words of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): O Allah, I ask You her goodness, and the goodness of the inborn dispositions which You have given her, and I solicit Your protection from her evil, and the evil of the inborn dispositions which You have given her. [Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah]It is preferable that the groom leads his wife in two Rakaat (units of prayer) before asking of Allah what they wish for themselves. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also suggested to say : O Allah, bless my wife for me, and bless me for her. O Allah, unite between us in good, and if You separate us, separate us in good. [Abu Shaybah]The groom should treat his bride with kindness and it is the Sunnah to offer her something to eat or drink. Foreplay is essential: take time to kiss and touch. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)said: One of you should not fall upon his wife like the way an animal does, let there be a messenger between them. [Daylami]Nakedness is allowed and they may look at each other at their free will while having intimacy ..ie sex. But there is some hadiths, that I posted recently which some scholars said were weak.. regarding nakedness! They say to preserve modesty, it is preferred if the couple is covered by a sheet, as described by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) : Verily Allah is modest and discreet and He likes modesty and discretion. [Ahmad, At-Tirmithi and Abu Dawud] (please ref to my post about this)Take things slowly and gently. Listen to each other and discover what feels good. Like most things in life, sex gets better with practice, so take comfort in the fact that you will soon discover what your partner likes and dislikes. When a woman loses her virginity it may be a bit painful and there may be some blood, but this is not always the case. If you ensure that there has been sufficient foreplay before intercourse, this should make penetration more comfortable. (This is only meant as a guideline to help those who a seeking reliable knowledge.)It is a Sunnah to pray before intercourse: In the name of Allah. O Allah, keep Satan away from us, and keep Shaytan away from (the offspring) that which You grant us. [Bukhari]You are free to have intercourse in any position you choose (but not allowed by the rear!) and as often as you choose. After sex, couples are advised to bath or shower (ghusl) or, at the very least, wash themselves with wudhu.The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said: If one of you had intercourse with his wife and then wants to come to her again, it is better for him to perform wudhu, for it gives him vigor to come again. [Muslim](For information on what is disallowed regarding intercourse, I will leave that for you to find out. However, if anyone wants to know the marital etiquette. Then please go on to my page and you will find a recent post about this)ConclusionThis article has provided an overview of the most important and fundamental elements of the occasion of Nikahceremony(marriage). Lets be clear, many communities have their own traditions and perhaps different ways of doing things, which you will learn of as you go about your planning. So be flexible to include a few traditions as well as long as they are not extravagant or against the shariah. Do not forget that relatives will prove to be a mind of information and of great help to you at this exciting, yet busy, time so always engage with them over the planning stages.Hope this makes sense and if I missed anything out then please do let me know. It is probably related to your culture or tradition. Please do share with us all what they were.If youre a Pakistani living abroad or in another country and need assistance finding a Qazi or Nikah Khawaan for your Wedding Ceremony, we can help you with our primary service, Online Nikah. We can conduct your Nikah ceremony from the comfort of your home using video call platforms like WhatsApp, Skype, IMO, Zoom, etc., all at affordable prices.For free Consultation or any query about Online Nikah/Nikah or Any other Legal services dont hesitate for Contacting us! In Islam, Nikah is a marriage contract and is considered a sacred bond. The Quran refers to this as a serious contract as both parties have been allocated certain responsibilities to be carried out towards each other with sincerity to God. God acknowledges these deeds as worthy of reward, therefore a Muslim should strive and make genuine effort to build a harmonious home with their spouse in order to earn the pleasure of God. A Nikah may only be conducted with full consent from both parties, and in the case of the female, the approval of her wali (guardian) is also required.The Muslim Law (Shariah) Council UK conducts Nikah contracts both on-site and off-site. To book an appointments or make an inquiry, please get in touch by calling us or sending an email. Legal age, sane and mature MuslimFull consent from both partiesProof of identity (passport or drivers license) On-site: 300.00Off-site: 400.00All inclusive, there are no other additional charges or fees. Payment must be made when making an application. In any case additional services are required, the Council will charge the applicant in accordance to its policy. Q. How should a Nikah take place in the Masjid if the bride is not present? A. The procedure of Nikah takes place as follows:A female gives consent to her representative (Wakeel or Mahram -unmarriageable relative like father, brother, etc.) preferably, in the presence of two male Muslim witnesses or one male and two female witnesses to perform her marriage in the Masjid.N.B. In this case, the presence of witnesses is not necessary. It is simply preferable.The marriage is performed in the Masjid by an exchange of offer and acceptance between the male and females representative in the presence of at least two male Muslim witnesses or one male witness and two female witnesses.N.B. In this case, the presence of witnesses is necessary. A marriage will be invalid in the absence of these witnesses. It is not a requirement for the validity of the Nikah to announce the Mahr amount in the Masjid at the time of Nikah. The one performing the Nikah may simply conclude the marriage by stating, on a mahr amount as agreed upon between the parties.After the Nikah is performed, it is Sunnah to consummate the marriage prior to conducting a Walimah. However, it is permissible to consummate the Nikah after a Walimah as well.Allah Taala Knows BestMufti Ismaeel Bassa If youre a Muslim whos recently been engaged and in the process of planninga Nikah (sometimes also spelled as "Nikkah") wedding ceremony, you're probably well aware that this celebratory event is highly regarded within the Islamic faith. For the 1.9 billion Muslims around the world, despite your religious sect, culture, or family, the fundamentals of a Nikah are the same: During this short-and-sweet service, you and your partner will officially accept your committed partnership, sign a marriage contract in front of an imam (a Muslim cleric) and at least two witnesses, and receive a blessing. Holding this ceremony is an opportunity to legitimize your marriage under Islamic law and for you and your partner to celebrate the values of a Muslim marriage, recall your duties as spouses, and be reminded of your eternal commitment to one another. Meet the ExpertImam Steve Mustafa Elturk is the president of the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA) in Warren, Michigan. He has officiated hundreds of Nikahs for Muslim couples and is very active in the Muslim community. While the principles are consistent, some of the details of the Nikah have evolved over time. For instance, this religious ceremony traditionally takes place in a mosque, with the leader or imam of the mosque officiating the ceremony, but today, it's common for the Nikah to occur at the bride's home or another venue, such as a hotel. The look of the service has also changed, too. Although the ceremony is supposed to be simple to avoid placing a financial burden on the couple, as some couples mix Islamic and Western traditions, the event has become more glamorous for some. If you're going to embrace the Nikah at your celebration, we spoke with Imam Steve Mustafa Elturk, president of the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA) in Warren, Michigan, on the fundamentals you need to know. Read on for a full guide to planning and preparing for this religious wedding ceremony. The Nikah is a religious ceremony for Muslim couples, where they legally wed under Islamic law. Its a Prophetic tradition and the only acceptable way that a couple can be married. Since two partners cannot be intimate unless the Nikah has taken place, the ceremony legitimizes the relationship in the eyes of God. Marriage in Islam is a blessing and it is considered a very important part of faith," Imam Elturk notes. There are a handful of requirements that the couple needs to meet in order for the Nikah wedding ceremony to take place, which Imam Elturk outlines below. Like any other religious tradition, a marriage proposal kicks off the Nikah process. In many cultures, it's common for a man to pop the question, but in Islam, women often propose, as was the case with Khadijah, the first wife of the Prophet, peace, and blessings upon him, Imam Elturk says. As long as the intention of the proposal is to get married, either partner can ask for the other's hand in marriage. The Qubool is the acceptance of the proposal. It's important to note that both parties must mutually agree to go through with the wedding, a decision that doesn't have to be (and often isn't) immediate. After one partner proposes, the couple usually meets as many times as they'd like (as long as the meeting is in a public place with a chaperone), so they can gauge their compatibility. The Mahr is an obligatory gift from the groom to the bride that symbolizes the man's responsibility to provide for and take care of his wife. This gift is typically a lump sum of money, an amount that the bride chooses, but she can also ask for a vacation, an education, or anything else that she wishes (within the means of her future husband, of course). Although the bride often selects the present, her family can also file the request. The groom can either give the Mahr to the bride during the Nikah or at another point in the future. Before the Nikah, discuss expectations for the Mahr with your future spouse. Since the bride's family has some say in the size of the gift, seek input from them, too. Whatever you decide, make sure the two of you are on board with it. The Wali, or the father of the bride, gives away his daughter during the Nikah ceremony. Before performing his duty, though, the bride's father first needs to get permission from his daughter. If the father of the bride is deceased or if he cannot walk her down the aisle for any other reason, then another male guardian or relative, usually her grandfather, older brother, or uncle, will need to take on this role. For Nikahs at a mosque, some ask the bride to be accompanied by her father, plus another family member. In order for the couple's marriage to be recognized by God, there needs to be a minimum of two male Muslim witnesses (or one man and two women at some venues) present during the Nikah. These bystanders must be able to attest to the fact that both partners said "Quobool," or "I do," by their own free willwithout any pressure from family members, friends, or others. The Wali is usually prohibited from serving as a witness, and at some mosques, the witnesses must know both the bride and groom personally. Like any other wedding ceremony, an officiant will conduct the service. For a Nikah, the imam of a local mosque is usually the one who presides over the ceremony, but any devout Muslim can do the honors. Usually, this person is a male, but in some communities that are more progressive, a female officiant can also step up to the plate. Signing the marriage contract is one of the most important parts of the Nikah, so you'll need to have the document on hand during the ceremony. Your officiant will probably have sample contracts that you can adapt, but you can also draft up your own. Whatever route you choose, you and your partner will need to jot down promisesno matter how vague or specificthat you intend to maintain throughout your marriage. If you're having your Nikah at a local mosque, you'll likely need to acquire and complete your marriage license ahead of the ceremony. For those who are holding their service in an Islamic country, your imam will register your marriage with the government following the service. Nanang Sholahudin / Getty Images Once you've met all of the requirements, you're eligible to throw a Nikah. Below, we discuss the standard order of the event, as explained by our expert. While Nikahs set at a mosque enforce segregation, no matter where you're hosting your wedding ceremony, it's customary that you and your future spouse refrain from seeing one another on that day until the service begins. Escorts will likely usher both of you to the stage separately, too. As you and your future spouse are perched on the stageoften with a curtain separating the two of youthe imam will recite prayers and readings from the Koran before giving a short sermon about the importance of marriage, according to Imam Elturk. If your officiant is another Muslim who isn't affiliated with the mosque, though, this portion of the Nikah won't include a sermonjust prayers and readings. Next, you and your partner will verbally accept the marriage, a formality that depends on your culture. In some cases, the bride will vocalize that she gives herself away (or the imam utters the words), and the groom will accept. Other times, the imam will ask the couple questions, and both the bride and groom will say, "I accept." The focal point of the Nikah? When you, your significant other, and your witnesses sign the marriage contract, legalizing your marriage under civil and religious law. The document will likely be presented on an elaborate table, so you and your bystanders can add your signatures. For the sake of time, your imam may prefer that you write your names ahead of the service. To conclude the Nikah, the officiant will bless you and your spouse. The blessing usually lasts only a minute or two, but it's a touching way to begin your newlywed lives. Then, the officiant will present the two of you as a betrothed couple. Once you and your partner agree to get married and once you have all of the requirements in place, you can start planning your Nikah, a process that's similar to that of other wedding events. Read on for a list of tips to follow as you begin orchestrating this religious event. One of the first steps entails choosing your wedding date and venue. If you're hosting your Nikah at a mosque, run a date and time by the imam. If you're thinking about holding the service at another venue, your designated day will depend on the locale's availability. For an at-home venue, of course, you'll have more flexibility with the time you choose. While preparing, you'll also need to ask two male Muslims to be your witnesses. Some mosques require that you and your partner both know the witnesses, but regardless of the venue, most couples choose relativesone from the brides side and one from the grooms side. Whether you're enlisting an imam or another officiant, you'll need to discuss how you intend to proceed with the marriage contract. If an imam will preside over your Nikah, confirm if they'll bring the document or if you'll supply the promises. For ceremonies that are taking place at another venue, not a mosque, double-check that your imam will be present. If you're hosting your Nikah at home, you have more leeway with the dcor. Nowadays, Nikahs are heavily influenced by the all-white wedding of the West, so couples will often use whites, creams, and gold for their color palettes. For your seating arrangements, many couples prefer that their guests sit front-facing, so they can see their loved ones throughout the Nikah. At a mosque, the group will often assemble in front of the main hall. Dress codes for Nikahs are typically modest, especially if the ceremony is taking place at a mosque. Generally, guests will wear brightly-colored attire that fully covers their arms and legs, and women will bring a scarf to wrap around their heads. For Nikahs at a mosque, guests will need to remove their shoes before entering, so encourage your invitees to sport a pair that's easy to slip on and off. After the Nikah ceremony (either following the ceremony or days later), many couples celebrate with a banquet, a gathering of their loved ones. While Islamic principles discourage exorbitant purchases and lavish displays of wealth, the size, scale, and look of these functions really depend on your culture and financial status. At these post-ceremony events, the type of food that you serve may vary, depending on your culture and family.FAQA Nikah usually takes place in a mosque, a rented venue, or at the bride's home. In the event that the service is held in a mosque, the men and women will likely be segregated during the ceremony. If that's the case, the Wali will accept the marriage contract on behalf of the bride. If the Nikah takes place elsewhere, segregation isn't a requirementit depends on the couples culture and the family's devoutness.Traditionally, an imam presides over a Nikah, but any devout Muslim (typically a male) can do the honors, whether it's the bride's brother or the groom's uncle.Although the length of the ceremony depends on the imam, the couples religious sect, and the number of traditions they include, the Nikah typically lasts between 30 and 45 minutes.No, a Nikah is not legally binding in the United States. If you have a Nikah, youll need to obtain a marriage license from your local government in order to be considered legally married in the country.The Nikah is the ceremony that a Muslim couple holds in order for Islamic law to legally recognize their marriage, an eternal union that they enter. The Nikah makes their marriage official.Nikah, in its lawful form, is the union of two individuals. It holds great significance in Islam, as it is through it that human generations have continued to grow, and it is a means of completing the faith of a Muslim. Its primary purpose is the preservation of chastity and modesty. It is one of the most important aspects of human life and a precious gift from Allah to His servants. All the prophets, from the beginning to the end, got married and conveyed the message of marriage to their followers so that humanity may safeguard their honor and fulfill their desires in a lawful manner. Allah has mentioned in the Quran: (:38)Translation: We have sent messengers before you and made for them wives and descendants.This era is one of great trials. Parents should marry off their children as soon as they reach an appropriate age and when a good religious match is found. Allah commands in the Quran: (:32)Translation: Marry off those among you who are single and the righteous among your male and female servants. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them from His bounty. Allah is Vast, All-Knowing.The Prophet (PBUH) said: (:5066 :1400)Translation: O youth, whoever among you can afford marriage, let him marry, for it lowers the gaze and protects the private parts. And whoever cannot afford it should fast, for fasting will be a shield for him.I will not discuss the issues of nikah here, but will focus on how a nikah is performed and what the practice of the Prophet (PBUH) was in conducting a nikah. As great as the importance of nikah is, its performance should be simple, but people have complicated it with customs and traditions, deviating it from its Islamic practice. Consider this hadith that illustrates the simplicity of nikah: (:1084)Translation: If a man whose religion and character are pleasing to you seeks marriage, then marry him off. If you do not, there will be great corruption and widespread mischief on earth.This hadith describes the process of nikah: a man sends a marriage proposal to the father or guardian of the woman. If the father or guardian is satisfied with the mans religion and character, they may marry off the woman to him. There is no mention of a ceremony, party, or excessive formalities in this process. If a person does not follow this simple practice, it leads to fitna (trial) and corruption. Today, fitna and corruption have spread because we have abandoned the sunnah and adopted foreign customs, even allowing Muslim men to marry non-Muslim women and vice versa, as seen with the influence of film stars.In Muslim marriages, issues like lineage, ethnicity, beauty, wealth, status, rituals, and innovation have become mixed, whereas in the time of the Prophet (PBUH), marriages were simple. A proposal came from one side, and it was accepted, leading to marriage. Consider the marriage of Abdur-Rahman bin Awf (RA):Anas ibn Malik (RA) narrates: : . : : . (:5155)Translation: The Prophet (PBUH) saw the yellow stain on Abdur-Rahman bin Awf and asked, What is this? He replied, I married a woman for the weight of a date pit in gold. The Prophet (PBUH) said, May Allah bless you. Hold a walimah, even if it is with a sheep.Notice how simple the wedding was. The Prophet (PBUH) did not even attend the ceremony, despite both being in the same location. It was straightforward and without extravagance. Another example is the marriage of the Prophet (PBUH) to Safiyyah (RA) after the Battle of Khaybar: (:5169)Translation: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) freed Safiyyah and married her, making her freedom her mahr, and held a walimah with dates.The simplicity of this marriage is evident. There are no elaborate rituals. Another narration discusses a woman who offered herself in marriage to the Prophet (PBUH): : . : : ( ) : : ( ) . : ( ) . : ( ) . : : ( ) . (:5135)Translation: A woman came to the Prophet (PBUH) and said, I offer myself in marriage to you. After some time, a man said, Marry her to me if you have no need for her. The Prophet (PBUH) asked, Do you have anything to give her as mahr? He replied, I have nothing but my loincloth. The Prophet (PBUH) said, If you give it to her, you will have no clothing left. Find something else. He said, I have nothing. The Prophet (PBUH) then asked, Do you know any part of the Quran? He said, Yes, I know such and such surahs. The Prophet (PBUH) said, We marry you to her for the portion of the Quran you know.The summary of all these hadiths is that nikah is simply the offer (Ijab) and acceptance (Qubul). There is no need for a qazi or imam, no celebration, no dowry or extravagance.To make it easier for those who are performing nikah, here is a brief summary of the correct way to perform it:The marriage proposal has already been made, and the families are gathered. The boys guardian (or a representative with the girls consent) is also present.It is recommended to announce the nikah. The Prophet (PBUH) said: (:1549)Translation: Announce the nikah and celebrate it with a tambourine.A marriage contract must be signed and documented for social and legal reasons.The mahr should be agreed upon and documented to avoid disputes later. Allah commands: (:237)Translation: If you divorce them before consummation, but you have already fixed a dowry for them, then half of it must be paid.The girls guardians consent is required, either through his presence or by a representative acting on his behalf.The Prophet (PBUH) said: (:1537)Translation: There is no marriage without a guardian.Two just witnesses are required to validate the nikah, as evidenced by Allahs statement: (:2)Translation: When they reach their term, either retain them honorably or part with them honorably, and take two just witnesses from among you.After these steps, the qazi should deliver the khutbah al-hajah (the opening sermon), which is not obligatory but recommended. It is a brief praise of Allah, seeking His guidance and forgiveness.After the khutbah, the qazi should ask the groom if he accepts the marriage of the bride. Once the groom says Yes, the nikah is complete. The mention of mahr during this time is not obligatory as long as it has already been agreed upon.There is no need to get the brides consent again at this stage, as it has already been done through her guardian.Finally, ensure that the marriage form is signed and the documents are completed.Every Nikah Khawan (officiant), wali (guardian), groom, and bride should know the pillars and conditions of a marriage. In fact, every Muslim needs to be aware of them.The existence of the spouses and the legitimacy of their marriage, meaning there should be no obstacles such as breastfeeding, kinship, iddah (waiting period), pregnancy, etc.The offer (Ijab) made by the wali or his representative with the mention of the brides name and the acceptance (Qabul) by the groom.There are also two conditions for the Nikah:The consent and approval of the wali (guardian).The presence of two just witnesses.Announcing the marriage is not obligatory but is considered recommended (Mustahabb). If the two pillars and two conditions are met, the Nikah is valid.It is not proven in the Hadith to make a collective dua after the Nikah. However, it is recommended to give individual congratulations to the bride and groom. It is narrated from Sayyidna Abu Hurairah (RA) that when the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) congratulated someone on their marriage, he would say: May Allah bless you, and may He bless upon you, and may He unite you both in goodness.(Sahih Abi Dawood: 2130)The groom should also hold a Walimah (feast) after the brides departure. There is a Hadith regarding the Walimah from the marriage of Abdur Rahman (RA) in which the Prophet (PBUH) said:Make the Walimah, even if it is with one sheep.There is no need to call a scholar or qazi from another place to conduct the Nikah. The brides guardian can simply say to the groom, I marry my daughter, so-and-so, to you, and the groom responds with, I accept. The marriage is valid. If there is a scholar in the village, there is no harm in having them perform the Nikah.It is not proven from the Sunnah to make the bride or groom recite the Kalimah, perform repentance, or state the articles of faith (Iman Mujmal and Iman Mufassal) during the Nikah. This is an innovation in religion.It is wrong to insist that the Nikah must be conducted using Arabic words like Zawajtu, Nikhtu, or Qabiltu. The marriage can be done in any language as long as the offer and acceptance are clear.It is not necessary to repeat the offer and acceptance three times; one time is sufficient.Distributing Chhohara (Dates) after marriage is not a Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH) or his companions. It is a mere custom that should be avoided, as it often causes disputes. The narration regarding this is weak, and Shaykh Albani declared it to be fabricated: .When the Prophet (PBUH) married or was married, he would distribute dates.(Silsilat al-Daifah: 4198)After the Nikah, gathering the groom and his companions in the courtyard and allowing non-mahram girls to mix, laugh, make jokes, or engage in inappropriate actions is unlawful and sinful. All those present who see, hear, or support this behavior will also share in the sin.The Mahr (dowry) is neither a pillar nor a condition of the Nikah. If it is not specified at the time of the marriage, the Nikah is still valid. However, once the Nikah is concluded, the Mahr becomes obligatory.It is incorrect to declare the mosque as the prescribed place for the Nikah, as there are weak narrations related to this. A Nikah can be conducted in a mosque, outside of a mosque, or anywhere else.A valid marriage can take place with only four people present: the guardian (wali), the groom, and two just witnesses. If others are gathered, it is merely an announcement of the marriage, but the concept of a baraat (wedding procession) is not Islamic and should be avoided.If the above-mentioned pillars and conditions are met, even a Nikah conducted over the phone is valid. However, running away with the girl, exchanging rings, getting the marriage registered in a court, or holding a fake ceremony in a park or with a so-called Nikah Khawan will not constitute a valid marriage unless the girls wali is in agreement.Rights of Spouses in IslamWomens and Husbands Ingratitudein Their Accountability in the HereafterIs It a Wifes Duty to Make Her Husband Religious in Islam?Islamic Guidance on IntimacyRulings and Issues of a Widow in IslamBy MAQUBOOL AHMAD SALAFIIslamic Dawah Center, Northern Taif (Masrah) The proposal (ijab) and acceptance (qabul) form one of the pillars or essential parts of the marriage contract, without which it is not valid. The proposal is said by the wali (guardian) or his proxy and the acceptance is said by the husband or his proxy.It is stipulated that the proposal and acceptance should come in one sitting. It says in Kashshaf al-Qina (5/41):If there is a lapse of time between the proposal and acceptance, it is valid so long as both are done in the same gathering and there is no distraction that would count as an interruption according to local custom, even if the interval between the two is lengthy. But if they part before the acceptance is spoken after the proposal has been issued, then the proposal becomes invalid. The same applies if there is a distraction that interrupts the proceedings according to local custom, because that is turning away from it and it is as if the proposal had been rejected.Similarly, it is also stipulated that witnesses be present in order for the marriage contract to be valid.Is online nikah valid in Islam?Based on that, the scholars differed with regard to doing the marriage contract by using modern means such as the telephone and the Internet . Some of them say that that is not permissible, because of the absence of witnesses, even though the presence of two witnesses on the phone at the same time comes under the same ruling as if they were in the same place. This is the view of the Islamic Fiqh Council (Majma al-Fiqh al-Islami).Some of the scholars are of the view that this should be disallowed, as a precaution to protect the marriage, because it is possible to imitate a persons voice and thus deceive others. This is what is stated in fatwas issued by the Standing Committee for Issuing Fatwas.Some of the scholars regard it as permissible so long as there is no risk of tampering. This is what was stated in fatwas issued by Shaykh Ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him).Thus it is known that the problem is not the issue of being in the same place, because contact between both parties at the same time via the phone or Internet comes under the same ruling as if they were in the same place.It is also possible for this marriage contract to be witnessed, by hearing the voice of the speaker over the phone or Internet; in fact with technological advances nowadays it is possible to see the wali and hear his voice when he makes the proposal, and it is also possible to see the husband.Hence the most correct view with regard to this matter is that it is permissible to do the marriage contract over the phone or Internet, if there is no danger of tampering, the identity of the husband and wali is proven, and the two witnesses can hear the proposal and acceptance.This is what was stated in fatwas issued by Shaykh Ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him), as stated above. It is also what is implied by the fatwa of the Standing Committee, which disallowed marriage in such cases as a precaution and for fear of deceit.The one who wants to be on the safe side may do the marriage contract by appointing proxies; so the husband or guardian may appoint someone to do the marriage contract on his behalf in front of witnesses.There follow the comments of scholars that confirm what we have referred to:Statement of the Islamic Fiqh CouncilStatement no. 52 (6/2) concerning the ruling on contracts via modern means of communication.After stating that it is permissible to do contracts via modern means of communication , the Council said:The guidelines mentioned above do not apply to the marriage contract, because of the stipulation that witnesses be present in that case.Fatwa of the Standing Committee for Issuing FatwasQuestion: if the pillars or essential parts and conditions of the marriage contract are fulfilled, except that the wali and the husband are in different countries, is it permissible to do the marriage contract by phone or not?Answer:Because nowadays deceit and trickery are widespread, and some people are skilled at imitating others, and some are able to make their voice sound like a number of people, male and female, young and old, and even speak different dialects and languages, so that the listener thinks that several people are speaking when in fact it is only one person, and because Islamic Shari`ah is concerned with protecting peoples chastity and honour, and takes more precautions than other religions with regard to contracts and dealings, the Committee thinks that it is not appropriate, with regard to marriage contracts, the proposal and acceptance, and appointing proxies, to handle such matters over the phone. This is in order to achieve the aims of shariah and protect peoples chastity and honour, so that those who follow whims and desires and those that seek to deceive and cheat people will not be able to toy with matters of marriage. And Allah is the source of strength. (Fatawa al-Lajnah ad-Daimah, 18/90)Fatwa of Shaykh Ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him)Question:I want to get married to a girl and her father is in another country; at present I cannot travel to meet him and do the marriage contract, for financial or other reasons. I am currently in a foreign country. Is it permissible for me to call her father so that he can say to me, I give you my daughter So and So in marriage, and I can say, I accept. The girl agrees to the marriage and there are two Muslim witnesses who can listen to what I say and what he says, via the speakers on the phone. Is this regarded as a legitimate marriage contract? Answer:The website put this question to Shaykh Abd al-Aziz ibn Abdullah ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him) and he replied that if what is described is true (and there is no tampering involved), then it fulfills the conditions of shari marriage and the marriage contract is valid.For more, please see these answers: 2201 , 148520 , 147987 , and 4807 .And Allah knows best.Doing the Nikah yourself will be impossible to do if certain steps are not followed. The bride and bridegroom can not get married just by doing the Nikah in the presence of an Imam. As this will invalidate the Nikah under Islamic laws.Can you do the Nikah by yourself? The Nikah can be done yourself as long as it done according to Islamic law by following conditions such as obtaining blessings from both sets of parents, blessings from the Imam, having the required number of witnesses present to having a meher agreement before the ceremony can start.The following conditions must be in place for a Nikah to be considered valid under Islamic law:Bride and bridegroom are acceptable for NikahParental Blessing has been obtainedImam Blessing has been obtainedRepresentation for the bride is presentAt least two witnesses are presentMeher agreement is in placeRequired marriage officials in placeThe following 7 tips look at how to do the Nikah by yourself, including a number of conditions and pre-requisites required to make sure the Nikah is valid under Islamic laws:Before considering the Nikah ceremony its important to establish the validity of the ceremony, as there may be circumstances in place that will inevitably make the Nikah void and invalid under Islamic rules.The situation for a Muslim man is slightly different compared to a Muslim woman if they want to marry a non-Muslim.Christian or Jewish women can be accepted as a wife as long as they dont worship anyone other than god. This can include worshipping idols or worshipping multiple gods or deities (known as polytheism). If the Christian or Jewish woman is involved in idol worship or polytheism then under Islam this is known as Shirk. Marrying a woman who follows Hinduism, where multiple gods are worshipped will lead to Shirk and be invalid under Islamic laws. So will a woman who follows Sikhism and Buddhism where idols are worshipped.Women who are atheist, agnostic or even pagan will also not be able to satisfactorily partake in Nikah with a Muslim man, as their beliefs are incompatible with Islam. In circumstances where Shirk exists, the woman can convert to Islam willingly. The Nikah is only valid if the Muslim woman marries a Muslim man, otherwise, the Nikah will be void. The non-Muslim man can convert to Islam willingly (and not by coercion), and then as a Muslim man, he can partake in the Nikah ceremony, satisfying this requirement.There is no separate distinction between religions involving idol worship and polytheism and between those like Christianity and Judaism, where this may not be the case. A Muslim woman wanting to marry a non-Muslim male will only be possible if the man converts to Islam.Another condition to satisfy prior to the Nikah is to be sure the Muslim woman bride to be, has not been immoral and led a life that could question the validity of the marriage.Immorality is known as Zinaa in Arabic and pre-marriage relationships would be considered immoral and invalidate any Nikah marriage ceremony.It is best to always get a parental blessing as well as the blessing of the extended family and other relatives. Without the parental blessing at least, the marriage itself would not conform to being a Nikah.This can complicate things further as the act of consummating the marriage itself, when the Nikah has been invalidated, meaning Zinaa has been committed, as the Muslim man and Muslim woman were not married under the eyes of Islamic law and therefore have committed an immoral act.Having blessing from a Imam (could instead of an Imam, include blessings from a Sheik, Islamic Scholar or a Muslim Judge) for the Nikah is important but it must only be done after a parental blessing, as otherwise the marriage will be done in secret (if the Imam agrees, most will not) and this will invalidate the Nikah.The legal guardian or authority (Wali) or their representative (Wakeel), representing the bride must be present during the Nikah. A Wali is required by the woman as a pre-requisite for the Nikah ceremony, without the woman having a Wali, the marriage ceremony can not go-ahead.The Wali is a guardian or another with authority who acts as the authorized agent of the bride in the marriage contract formalities.If the wedding ceremony is done where the bride and groom are separated, such as being in different rooms, or a partition between the couple, the Wali (or Wakeel) acts on the brides behalf during the Nikah ceremony.This does not invalidate the Nikah ceremony and a successful outcome, means the couple are classed as husband and wife under Islamic laws.The groom does not need to have a third party providing them with Wali, as long they are of sound mind. As the bridegroom can enter the marriage contract on their own, there is no need for a Wali, unlike the bride.At least two witnesses are required to be present during the Nikah, these witnesses are generally Muslim men but can also be two Muslim women but a Muslim man is still required;Meher (also known as Mahr) agreement detailing the monetary gift from the groom to the bride must have been agreed between them, it is thought of in a similar light to a dowry. The formal Meher agreement can include:pre-wedding gifts;the wedding gift;and gifts due later.A ring is commonly used as the initial gift, which is required before the marriage is consummated. The later gift of money, jewellery, education or even land has to be declared.There is no religious view on the size of the Meher offered, moderation is stipulated by many, but extravagance can take place. Gifts can also be spread across the brides life.I mentioned an Imam being asked to perform the Nikah ceremony at the start of this article and its important to have the correct officials officiate the marriage. This can be an Imam or a state-appointed Muslim judge known as a Qadi but also a highly qualified Islamic Scholar known as a Maulvi. A Sheik can also be considered to officiate Nikah.In some countries, the Nikah can be officiated by a practising Muslim without the need for an Imam or any of the aforementioned officials. The officiating Muslim needs to be of a good standing to be considered acceptable for the Nikah.The Nikah does not need to take place in a mosque even though it is a religious ceremony.Once the above requirements are in place to do the Nikah, the ceremony itself doesnt need to be overly complicated and in its simplest form, the Wali will offer the bride to the bridegroom for acceptance.Generally making a statement along the lines of them giving the bride for marriage, in the presence of the witnesses and with the agreed Meher. With the husband to be, stating his acceptance, in front of the witnesses and agreeing to give the Meher previously agreed.Consent to marriage from both parties, the groom and the bride is essential and this can be observed by both the bridegroom and groom reciting the Arabic for I accept (qabul) three times, however, this isnt necessary, as the Wali can accept on the brides behalf.The marriage contract (aqd-Nikah) is then signed in front of the witnesses and the marriage becomes legal under religious and civil law (maybe dependent on the jurisdiction).The husband and wife may elect to share sweet fruit, with dates being common to symbolize their union. The marriage contract documents will need to be recorded with a Mosque (Masjid) to finalize the marriage.Nikah ceremonies can also be more detailed, with additional ceremonies such as banquet. Once the Nikah formalities have been completed, a wedding banquet takes place. This Walima can take place straight after the wedding, or at a future date, a day, week or even months later. The Walima is done to celebrate the marriage and can also become status symbols, as many banquets end up being expensive lavish affairs.Depending on the country where the Nikah takes place, further registration with the authorities may be required. In such cases, attendance at a formal civil marriage ceremony will be required.If the Mosque where the Nikah is carried out, is also registered by the authorities to carry out the civil wedding elements of the marriage, then the Nikah and the civil wedding can be done at the Mosque, saving time and effort on having to do two separate ceremonies.In certain countries, cultural and traditional influences may mean additional ceremonies taking place before and after the Nikah. These can include:Engagement Ceremony;Mendhi; toExchanging Rings.Mendhi involves applying henna to the brides hands and feet before the Nikah ceremony. The henna and the brides clothes are generally provided by the grooms family.Exchanging of rings is becoming popular and is not a religious requirement, with rings exchanged at the engagement and sometimes at the wedding too. The engagement in itself is for the families to meet in a formal setting, albeit this may be at the grooms family home.By doing the Nikah incorrectly you could lull yourself into thinking you are married under Islamic law. When in reality you will be seen as unmarried under Islamic law.This is because the Nikah ceremony you undertook was invalidated by not following the requirements and prerequisites correctly. Just by finding an Imam to do the Nikah ceremony and getting married in secret without following the correct Nikah procedures will not suffice and will prove difficult.What is a Muslim wedding known as? A Muslim wedding is known as the Nikah. A ceremony requiring the bride and groom to commit to a marriage contract, in the presence of witnesses and officials.Where are Muslim weddings held? The wedding ceremony known as the Nikah doesnt necessarily need to take place in a mosque. With many Muslims electing to have this Nikah ceremony in a wedding venue. Nikah is one of the things which is very important in Islam, it is also called the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Here are the 10 things you should know about it; Both the groom and the bride should agree to the marriage. (Quran 4:19) Both the groom and the bride have equal rights to give a divorce. They even can add this clause to their Islamic Marriage Contract [Nikah Nama]. (Quran 2:229) Nikah is a Sunnah. (Sunan Ibn Majah 1846) Forced marriagesare Haram (Non-Permitted) in Islam. If any parent of anyone is forcing any boy or a girl to marry, then this will be considered as a Haram and this marriage can not be done until the boy or a girl agrees to marry each other with free will. (Sahih Muslim 1419a) Mahr [The cost decided before Nikah] can be paid anytime, not at the time of divorce. The husband has to pay it as it is a debt to him. (Quran 4:4) Dowry is not allowed! Dowry such as Cars, Furniture, Air Conditions, and other luxuries are not permissible. (Mishkat al-Masabih 3097) Marrying a non-Muslim is not allowed for both Men and Women. (Quran 2:221) A man should be well enough to provide his wife with a separate providing home, food, and clothing. (Quran 4:34) Valima is a sunnah. (Sunan Abi Dawud 3744) A man can only marry up to 4 if he is confident that he can treat all his wives equally. (Quran 4:3) No, nikah without a witness is not valid. An Islamic marriage contract. Divorce:A husband can divorce his wife by pronouncing the talaq (divorce) formula three times.Death:The death of either spouse automatically dissolves the nikah.Apostasy:If either spouse renounces Islam, the nikah is automatically dissolved. Yes, nikah can be done during periods. Online nikah is valid if certain conditions are met. The validity of a nikah performed over the phone depends on the laws of the country in which it is performed. In some countries, nikah performed over the phone is valid, while in others it is not. Subscribe to our channels on WhatsApp, Google News, Facebook and Instagram. Subscribe to get the latest posts sent to your email. Haniya Hassan Haniya is a business graduate from York University and an Islamic Information news correspondent.

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