# Multicultural society

The society of Al-Ándalus was very diverse and consisted of people from different religious groups. Most people were Muslim but other religious groups practiced their religion and traditions, too. Some people came from mixed Christian and Muslim families.

## Muslims

Muslims followed Islam and were the most powerful group in society at the time. They owned the best land and were in charge of the government. One of their traditions was the Hajj, which is a yearly Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city for Muslims.

## Muladís

Muladís were Christians who converted to Islam and adopted the Moorish customs and Islamic traditions. Some of them followed the Muslim religion to avoid paying taxes.

## Mozarabs

Mozarabs were Christians who kept their religion but adopted Moorish customs.

## Jews

There were a small number of Jews in Al-Ándalus, but they played an important role in politics, commerce and art. They kept their own customs and lived in separate areas called juderías.

The Muslims of Al-Ándalus were respectful of other people's beliefs. They allowed Christians and Jews to practice their religions, but they had to pay a tax called jizyah. Muslims, Christians and Jews often lived peacefully in Muslim cities.

The Cathedral in Zaragoza

The Synagogue in Toledo

The Mosque in Córdoba

## 1 Mark if these sentences are describing Muslims, Muladís, Mozarabs or Jews.

They practice the Christianity but had Moorish customs.

Christians who converted to Islam and adopted the Moorish customs.

They were in charge of the government.

The minority group in Al-Ándalus

Some of them followed the Islam to avoid paying taxes.

They lived in separated areas.

## 2 Mark if these sentences are true or false.

1. All the society of Al-Ándalus followed the same religion. **True / False**
2. Somepeople of the Al-Àndalus' society came from mixed Christian and Muslim families. **True / False**
3. Muslims owned the best land. **True / False**
4. Muladís were Muslims who converted to Christianity. **True / False**
5. Mozarabs kept their religion. **True / False**
6. The Muslims of Al-Ándalus didn't respect other people's beliefs. **True / False**

## 3 Match the the names of these words with their definitions.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jizyah | The holy city of Muslims. |
| Hajj | Money that people that weren't Muslim had to pay to practice their religion. |
| Mecca | A pilgrimage to the Mecca that occurs every year. |

## 4 Choose the correct option

1. Most people in Al-Ándalus were _____.

   a) Christians  b) Muslims  c) Jews

2. One of the Muslims' tradition was the _____.

   a) Hajj  b) Meca  c) Jizyah

3. Muladís adopted _____ traditions.

   a) Christians  b) Moorish  c) Jews

4. Jews played an important role in _____ .

   a) Politics  b) Commerce  c) Both of them are correct

5. The zizyah was _____.

   a) A tax  b) A place  c) A person

6. _____ had most of the power in the Al-Ándalus society.

   a) Christians  b) Jews  c) Muslims