

④ What is Islam. Enlist the salient features of Islam.

Ans **Islam:** Islam is the word used by Allah in Quran.

⇒ 'ISLAM' is an Arabic word. The root word is SLM, pronounced 'salam' which means peace. From which comes the word 'aslama' which means he submitted.

⇒ The other literal meaning of Islam is 'peace' and this signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and mind only through submission and obedience to Allah.

According to Quran;

'Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah— indeed it is in the thought of Allah alone that the heart of man really finds rest — those who believe and act righteously, joy is for them, and a blissful home to return to.' (Al-Quran, 13:28-29).

⇒ This message was preached by all the Prophets of God, who guided man to the right path. But man not only veered away from the right path again and again, but also lost and distorted the code of guidance which the Prophets had leave.

(2)

Contextual Meaning:

Islam stands for complete submission and obedience to Allah - that is why it is called Islam.

⇒ According to Dr. Hameed - Islam is the most perfect religion revealed through the Prophet (SAW).

⇒ As we know the Islam is a combination of faiths and rituals. This is learned by Quranic Surah.

Maleki: Faith

Madni: Rituals.

⇒ Islam is a universal religion because it guides us in every close aspects of life.

⇒ As Judaism was only for Jewish and Christianity was only for the Christian but Islam is universal in nature. It is not limited to a specific ethnicity.

So we can also say that Islam is the ideal system of living for all mankind.

⇒ It will be spread to every corner of the world and it is not specific to a specific time period. It will be here and will be enlightened till Qayamah.

2 Salient Features of Islam:

Following are the salient features of Islam.

① True Religion:

It is the religion of truth. It is the embodiment of the code of life, which Allah, the Lord of the universe, has revealed for the guidance of Islam.

② From Almighty Allah:

It must be clearly understood that religion of Islam was not given to us by any philosopher, legal expert, moralist or national leaders. It has come down to mankind from Almighty Allah, the creator and master of the universe, through His prophets and messengers. They were specially chosen by Him to receive His guidance in the form of revelation and pass it on to mankind without adding to, or suppressing from it, any word according to their own wish. All of them taught only one religion which Allah calls Islam. The last of these messengers was Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). With Him the teaching of Islam were finalized and the guidance completed.

③ Tawheed:

The distinctive characteristics of Islam is its emphasis on correct basic faith, that is faith in Almighty Allah, as the one and only being, who is the creator, sustainer and Master of the whole Universe. Who alone is being worthy of worshipped and to whom all of us have to return and account for our deeds done in this life. This has been the prime teaching of all His messengers up to the last prophet Muhammad (PBUH). → It was for the pleasure of Allah. It was the burning zeal that left no room in their hearts for any mundane benefits - self, power and honour.

④ Be Sincere To Allah:

On the part of Allah's servants what is required and whole hearted effort, is sincere His message and established spread His order. His reward are for such efforts irrespective of their results. When or where will the efforts bear fruit or result in success is known to Him only. He, however, promised His faithful servants, the true believers, that their striving would sooner or later meet with success.

5) Prophet's Duty:

are duty bound to Allah messengers, the prophets, His word, as revealed from Him. They will never allow any change or amendment in His word or accept any compromise in connection with their mission.

→ As the fundamental and principles of Islam, so also in enforcement of Allah's commandments in respect of individual and social life, the Holy Prophets could not and did not adopt a compromising attitude.

6) Unity of Humankind:

Islam gives us the message of unity of humankind. Islam believe and respect all messengers of God and revealed books. Islam also respect the worship places of all other religions.

According to Quran:
"And mankind was one but one community but they differed. And if not for a word that preceded from your Lord, it would have been judged between them concerning that over which they differ." (Al-Quran 10:19).

7) Freedom of Thoughts In Islam:

there is freedom of faith, freedom of worship. In Islam there is good relation with non-Muslims, also the equity and justice in Islam.

(6)

with the non-Muslims. These is also safety, and protection of polytheists.

According to Quran; "Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your home. Indeed Allah loves those who act justly."

8 Islam Is Peaceful:

Islam is very peaceful religion and it protect human life. Allah does not like destruction and corruption. In Islam if enemy is inclined to peace accept it. Do good works to please Allah. Islam a very impactful family life which provide peace to the humanity.

According to Quran:

"And those who say, 'Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.'" (Al-Quran 25: 74).

9 PREACHING DAWAH:

Those communities who have no revelation will not be destroyed. So its our duty to spread the Islam to each corner of the world.

According to Quran;

"That is because your Lord would not destroy the cities for wrongdoing while their people were unaware. (Al-Quran: 6: 131).