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Q. What is Islam? Enlist its salient features.

Ans ISLAM: start with the introduction of the question.

Word Islam is derivative of three Arabic roots words SLAM, which connote interrelated meanings of surrender, submission, commitment and peace. It means to completely submit before the will of Allah, The Almighty and to make peace - peace with Allah, peace with one's self and with the creation of Allah - through wholly surrendering before Allah's commands and seeking His divine guidance.

Allah - The Almighty mentions in Quran:

“ On this day, I have perfected your religion; completed my favors upon you; and chose for you Islam as your religion ”

try to add the arabic of quranic ayats.

Al-Maide, 3

This signifies the importance of Islam, as it is not a man made religion; unlike others; It is revealed by Allah, and a great favor upon mankind. As Dr. Hamidullah:

states that:  
 “ Islam is <sup>7a monotheistic religion</sup> revealed by Allah through Quran; on Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) ”

Another distinctive aspect of Islam is the status of 'Deen' has been given to it; owing to its vast impacts on every aspect of humans.

As Allah, The Almighty mentions in Quran:

“ إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ”

“ Truly, Islam is the only Deen in the sight of Allah ” Al-Imran, 19

Thus, Islam is a perfect religion; by Allah - Al-Khaliq - The Perfect Creator; For His Creation.

### → Salient Features of Islam:

Following are the distinctive features of Islam; obliged for the believers to have firm faith in.

#### 1) Tawheed:

As seed is to tree, Tawheed is to Islam. It is the most fundamental structure of Islam; signifying the oneness of God.

“ قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ”

“ Allah is One ”

Al-Klaas, Allah Almighty mentions in Quran that He is the only God; It is the essence of concept of Tawheed; a believer giving Shahaada of oneness of God.

As Molana Shibli Naumeni in his book Seerat un Nabi writes that

keep the description of a leading brief and increase the number of arguments instead.

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5-8 lines are enough for a single heading.

Prophet Mohammed (Pbuh) says  
"Islam is like a Fort, and the gate of this Fort is Tawheed"

This implies that one cannot enter into Islam without having faith in One God - Allah Almighty.

But Tawheed does not only mean one God, rather it means oneness of God in every aspect of life.

As Allah Almighty mentions in Quran:

"All that is in heavens and in Earths belongs to Allah; and He is in perfect control of everything; So focus your attention & trust on Him alone"

Al-Imran, 189

The ayah signifies that Allah alone is the creator and sustainer of the universe and no one can be equated to Him; as He is in control. As Allah Almighty mentions in another ayah in Quran:

"وَإِلَهُكُمْ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ"

"Truly, your God is one God; There is no God but He; The Ever Living, The Most Merciful"

Al-Baqrah, 163

## 2) Prophethood:

To believe in the messengers of Allah and most importantly in the finality of Prophethood is yet

again too lengthy description.

one reference is enough for a single heading.

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another feature of Islam. Allah Almighty has revealed Islam through Quran on the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH); who is the last Prophet of Allah. whatever has been explained in Quran, Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) has practically performed it, so that we can follow him and lead our lives in accordance with Sunnah. As Allah Almighty mentions in Quran:

“Mohammed is not father of any of your men; but messenger and last prophet of Allah; & Allah is knowing of everything”  
AL-Ahzab, 40

As Deen-e-Islam is for all mankind; so is the messenger of Allah; Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) mentions in Hadith:

“وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ”

“I have been sent on earth as mercy for all mankind”

This implies that Sunnah of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) provides guidance in every aspect of life; practically; for all mankind. The importance of following Sunnah is mentioned by Allah in words:

“Say (O Mohammed) if you shall love me Allah; then follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins”

Al-Imran 31

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### 3) Pillars of Islam:

To have faith in the five pillars of Islam has made obligatory for believers.

#### i) Kalima:

The gate to enter in Islam is confessing that Allah is One & that Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is the messenger of Allah.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

This is the essence of faith of a believer, without which one cannot be called as a Muslim.

#### ii) Prayer:

To stand in supplication before Allah five times a day has made obligatory for believers. As Allah mentions in A'raaf:

“Believers; who do righteous things; establish prayer and give charity; their reward lies with Allah; they will not fear; nor will they have any regret”

Al-Baqrah, 217

The importance of namaz can be understood by the Hadith of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH):

“Prayer is the only distinction; between a believer and a disbeliever”

## iii) Fasting:

To fast on the Holy month of Ramadan; It is also called as charity of body. It is mentioned in Quran; Allah says

“O believers, Fasting is prescribed for you; as it was prescribed for people before you; so that you <sup>can</sup> be mindful of Allah.”

Al-Baqarah, 183

## iv) Charity:

It is stated as biggest financial worship. The concept of giving charity is of very importance in Islam; as it is the way of circulation of ~~the~~ wealth in the society; from wealthy to poor. That is why it is obligatory for the Muslim unless to 'Collect Zakat by force'.

## v) Pilgrimage:

To visit Holy Kaaba, for physically and financially fit person is obligatory; once in a life-time.

## 4) Complete Code of Life:

Islam is not a religion for particular group of people rather it is for all mankind, irrespective of any discrimination. As for Allah, appearance

of a person does not matter.  
 Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says:

“An Arab is no way greeter than  
 a non Arab; and a non Arab  
 is no way greeter than an Arab.”

Similarly, Islam is not confined to  
 a particular time or particular aspect  
 of life; rather it provides guidance,  
 from one generation to another, in  
 all aspects of life. It comprehensively  
 guides about rights and responsibilities,  
 as in Health Prophet Mohammed (PBUH)

says:

“Seeking knowledge is obligatory  
 for all men and women.”

As Islam promote social equality  
 and cooperation, so it also provides  
 relevant guidance on community  
 level as well regarding social, financial,  
 economic and political systems  
 of a society.

That means from cradle till grave,  
 Islam is the only deen which provides  
 ultimate guidelines to live a  
 successful and prosperous life.

## 5. Islam and Humanity:

Islam laid the  
 foundation stone of human rights charter.  
 from humans; to animals; to environment;  
 It comprehensively guides about  
 their respective rights. Islam is the

first religion which discourages racism; as Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says:

"Allah does not look upon your looks ~~and~~; rather He looks at your heart"

This signifies that discrimination on the basis of cast, color & class is something Islam discourages & that having a good ~~and~~ heart is more beautiful and beloved to Allah than mere looks. (PBUH)

Similarly messengers of Allah also said to be kind towards enemies.

On another account, protection of environment is also made mandatory for believers. As Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says:

"Do not waste a single drop of water; even if you are sitting beside a running stream"

use elaborate and self explanatory headings

vii) The day of judgment: in the hereafter & to believe that on the

day of judgment Allah Almighty will decide how people have spent their lives, on the basis of deeds and their actions in this world. As Allah mention in Quran:

"مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ"

"Allah is the owner of day of Deen (day of judgment)"

Al-Fatihah, 3

short answer. a 20 marks qs should have around 15 subheadings/arguments.