

Q. Define the meaning of prayer and its diff. categories. Also describe the spiritual, moral and social impact of prayers.

(2016)

## Introduction

Namaz, however, is obligatory for all Muslims without any pretext or condition, they have to offer namaz five times a day. The prayer functions as the direct contact b/w the worshiper and Allah Almighty. As Allah Almighty, regarding prayer, says in Surah Al-Haji: 40 "The churches, the monasteries, the synagogues and mosques wherein the name of is very much remembered, would have been pulled down. So, Allah Almighty says he feels happy wherever his name is remembered. In Islam, there are four types of prayer which include Fard, Wajib, Sunnah and Nafl prayers. Thus, prayer heads of humans from sins and best deeds of one oblige his god.

# Meaning

In the light of above-mentioned verses of the Holy Quran, the true meaning of establishing Namaz (ṣalāṭ) is that prayer should be offered with fulfilling all its pre-conditions, requirements and decozum while keeping in mind that no worldly plans and thoughts could distract our attention and having firm belief that we are standing before Allah Almighty while offering prayer. He must not think about any worldly issue or problem, but focus on himself being present in front of his lord.

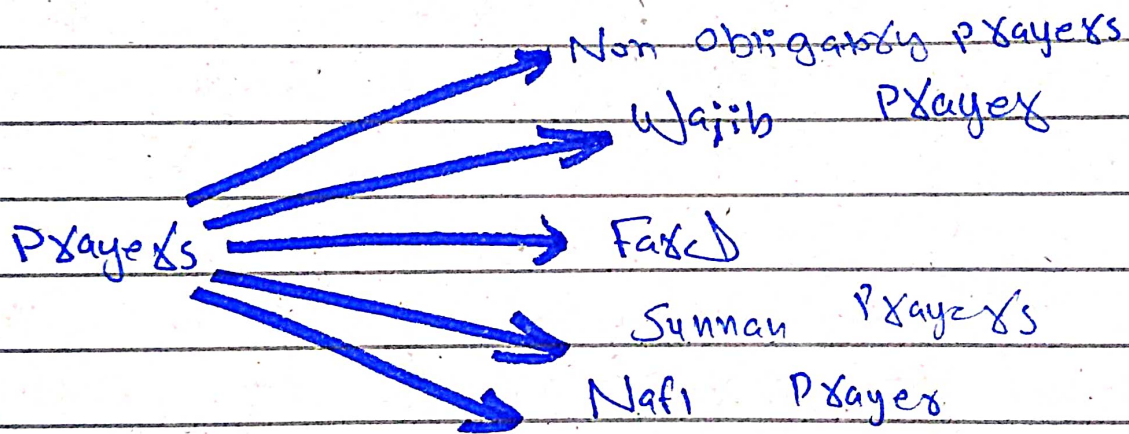
And had they maintained the Truth (old testament) and Injeel (Bible Gospel) and what had been revealed to them from their sustainer, they would have received from above them and from underneath their feet (Al-ʿAids:66)

So, the meaning of ṣalāṭ is supplication, invoking Allah's blessings, asking his exaltation and forgiveness.

# Types of Prayer

In Islam, praying is considered the supreme act of worship and the ultimate way of demonstrating obligation to Allah.

There is a set of specific rules and regulations, such as timings, frequency and direction associated with different prayer is Islam. Following are such types of prayer.



## A) Fard (or the Obligatory prayer)

Followers of Islam (Muslims) are to perform five times a day.

Five obligatory prayers are

Salat Al Fajr, Salat Al Zuhr, Salat Al Ash, Salat Al Maghrib and Salat Al Isha. So, it

is sinful to miss out anyone of them; Muslims have offer

them on daily basis in every situation.

## B) Wajib Prayer (Required or Obligatory in a Situation)

Wajib prayers are obligatory and it is also considered sinful to miss. Anyone who misses a

Wajib prayer unintentionally does not need offer it as a

Dada. Wajib prayers are as

follows: Salaat with Salat-al-Eidain.

During Tawaf.

## C) Sunnah Prayer

These among four types in

Islam are called Sunnah or

Sunnah. These prayers are

offered by Holy prophet (PBUH)

in addition to obligatory prayers.

i) Two rakahs before Salat-al-Fajr

ii) Four rakahs before Salat Al-Zuhr

iii) Two rakahs after Salat Al-Maghrib

iv) Two rakahs after Salat Al-Isha.

## D) Nafi (or Voluntary Prayer)

Amongst all type of Salaat in

Islam, Nafi or voluntary prayers

are offered for extra virtue.

However, missing out on them

is not considered sinful. It

is believed that the more

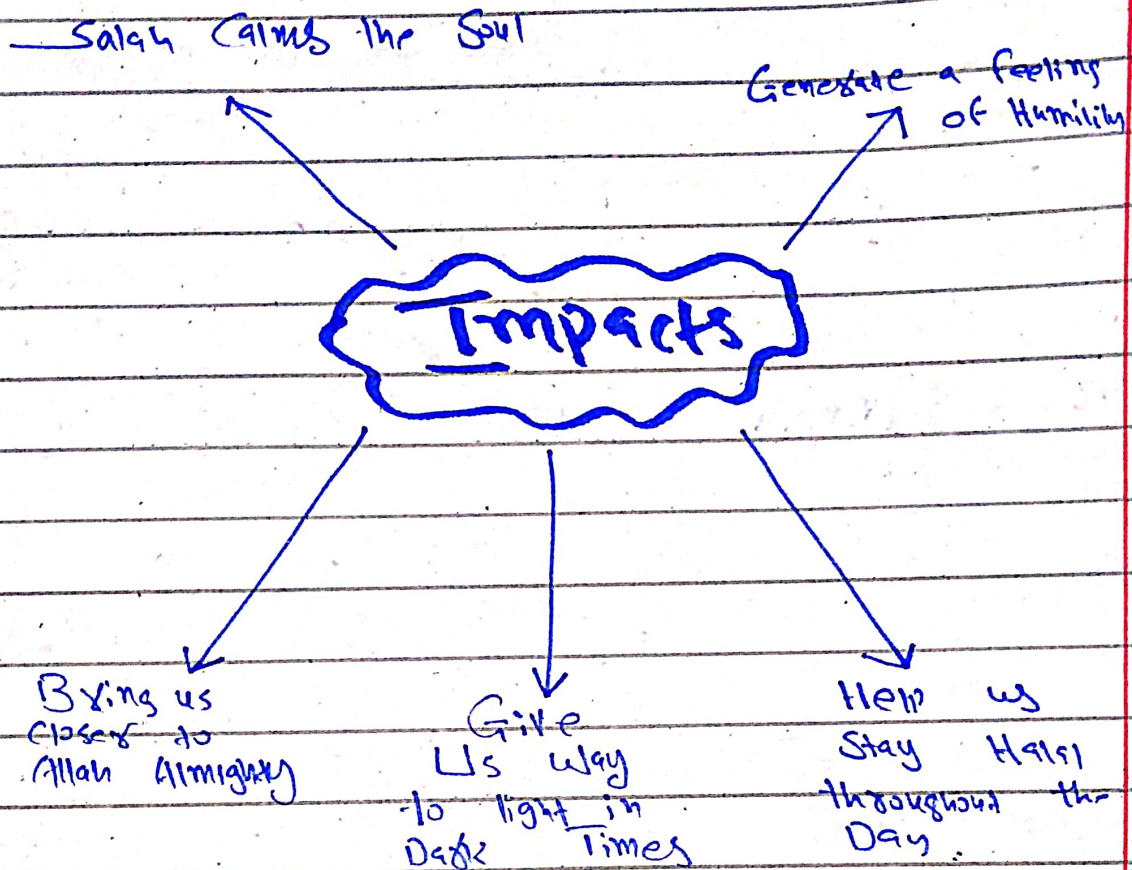
Nafi prayers are performed,

the greater will be reward.

These include: Salat Al-Tahjud, Salat Al-Ishraq, Salat Ad-Duha, and Salat Al-Awwabin.

# 4- Spiritual, Moral and Social impact of Prayer

## A) Spiritual impact of Prayer

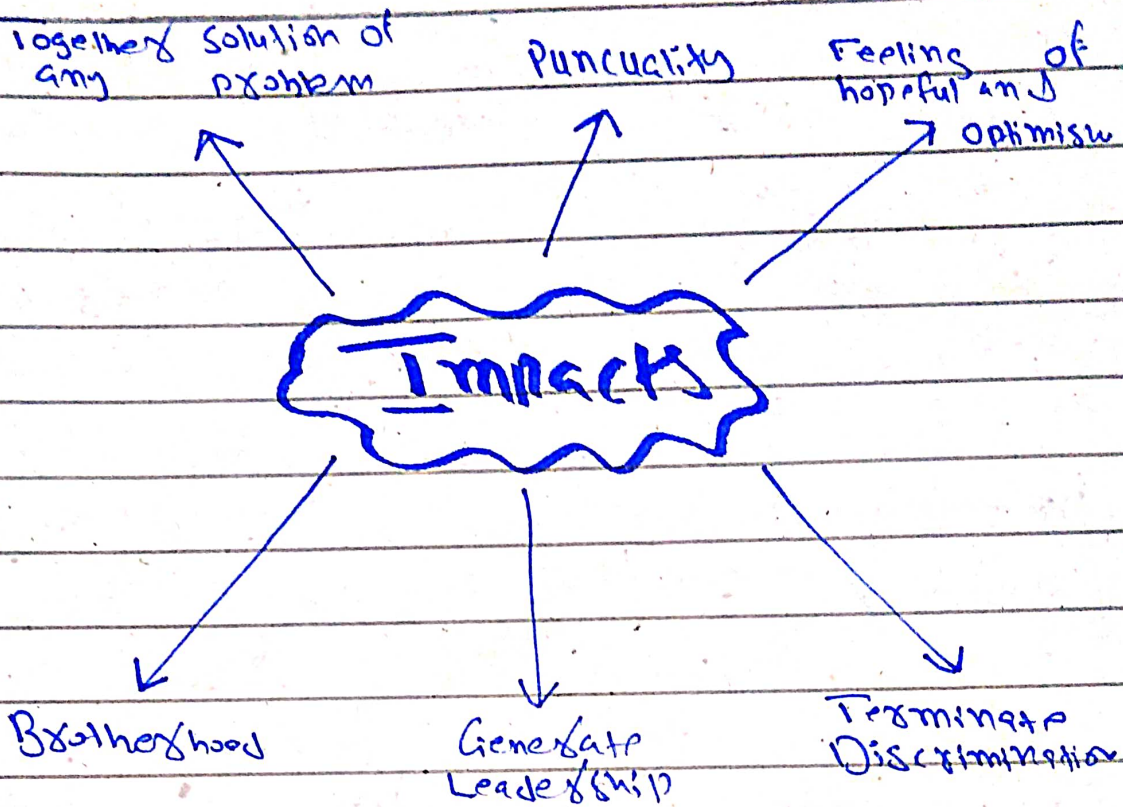


Lastly, when we are constantly connected to Allah throughout the day, it makes it easier on us to be mindful of our acts and lead a halal life.

## B) Moral impacts of Prayer

The Prayers save off us from forbidden and shameful actions, and it encourages us to do righteous and sensible deeds.

# e) Social impacts of prayers



So, Namaz (prayer) has versatile social benefits which Muslims analyse throughout the day. Prayer socially benefits the living of Muslims. In Jummah prayers, the all Muslims of a village gather at mosque, whose sermon is given for the way of Allah. Muslims also discuss social problems of cities that they could solve it through consultation and as united. Besides, the obligatory Namaz eradicate the differences between the rich and the poor.

## 5 - Conclusion

Hence, the meaning of prayer is a religious service of obligation of ones God. In Islam, there are two types of prayers: one which are obligatory prayers that Muslims have to practice unconditionally or in any situation or condition. Second, there are also some other prayers which, even if one miss, do not get ones sin. While offering prayers, they have many advantages in ways of social, moral and spiritual. The prayer generates unity between Muslims; brings one closer to Allah; brotherhood, works as ways to overcome daily life problems.