

# Islamic studies.

→ Assignment — 1.

Q- What is Islam? Enlist salient features of Islam.

Answer:

## (1) Basic concept of Islam.

→ In Arabic 'Islam' literally means 'submission', but when the term is used in religious context it means 'Submission to Allah Alone'.

## (2) Contextual meaning.

Islam can be defined in two ways in contextual meaning.

- (i) To enter in peace by submitting to the will of Allah.
- (ii) Submission of desires to the will of God.

## (3) Islam according to shariah.

Shariah:-

is derived from two main sources: the Quran, which is considered as the direct words of Almighty Allah, and hadith — thousands of sayings and practices attributed to prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that collectively form sunna.

According to shariah, Islam means 'submissiveness and total surrender'.

to Allah and to all his  
rules that have been revealed -  
to his Chosen prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In the verse of Holy Quran,  
it is said:

"Let there be no compulsion  
in religion, for the truth stands  
out clearly from falsehood. So  
whoever renounces false gods and  
believes in Allah has certainly  
grasped the firmest, unfailing  
hand-hold. And Allah is All-Hearing,  
All-knowing" (2: 256)

In another surah of Quran

In last verse of surah Al-kafirun,  
it is said:

"For you is your religion, and  
for me is my religion." (109: 6).

These words guides people  
towards right attitude and  
behaviour. This surah also hints that  
even if people are free to  
believe in any that invokes their  
faith, the truth and falsehood  
can-not be allowed to mix

#### (4) Islam and Man.

As mentioned earlier, man is  
also one of such creatures  
as are endowed with the

faculty of will and choice. He has the choice to choose best religion which he considered as a genuine or real.

The Holy Quran says that when the first man was sent to live on this earth, Allah decreed:

"We said, "Descend all of you! Then when guidance comes to you from me, whoever follows it, there'll be no fear for them, nor will they grieve. But those who disbelieve and deny our signs will be the residents of the fire. They'll be there forever". (2:38-39)

### (5) (Famous scholars) <sup>views</sup> regarding Islam.

(i) Dr- Hameed ullah:

said that Islam is a monotheist, deen revealed through prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

(ii) Imam Ghazali:

He describes Islam as a mixture of rights of Allah and the rights of people.

(iii) According to Oxford:

Islam is a combination of three things.

- (a) To accept monotheism
- (b) To embrace prophet hood.
- (c) To practice muslim culture

## (6) Universal deen.

Islam is a universal deen because it guides us in every aspect of life. It's not limited to a specific time period, it's not confined to a specific geography and it's not limited to a specific ethnicity. In short, Islam has the solution for every problem whether it's social, culture, political and financial.

## (7) Islam for whole man-kind.

Islam is an ideal system of living for all of man-kind. Islam always preaches the right way to follow, following five pillars of Islam for prospering not only in this present world but also in the world here after and solving different issues while following sunna and according to the life of prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In Qur'an, it is said:

"Therefore we ordained for the children of Israel that he who ever kills a soul unless for a soul or mischief in land - it'll be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it'll be as if they saved all of humanity." (5: 32)

Salient features of Islam.

## 1) Islamic concept of Tauheed.

Tauheed is the core pillar of Islam. Tauheed is explained in first part of Kalma which means the oneness of God, in a sense that he is the one who has the power to control every thing in this world. Even a single leaf can not move without the will of Allah. Allah's will. As said in Holy Quran:

"He is Allah, the one and unique, Allah, who is in need of none and of whom all are in need. He is ~~neight~~ neither begot any nor was he begotten, and none is comparable to him" (112:1-4).

Sirat-un-Nabi is considered one of the most famous and authentic biographies of the Islamic prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Allama Shibli Nomani, has defined tauheed in the following way in his book:

(i) Tauheed is the first chapter of Islamic syllabus.

(ii) Islam is like a fort and the gate for that fort is tauheed.

## (2) Prophet hood.

In Arabic the word used for prophet hood is 'Risalah'. which literally means "Apostership". Risalah is Arabic word for message.

It represents the various ways Allah communicates with humanity.

In Quran, it is said:

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is the messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things." (33:40)

Sunnah teaches us the way of life. Islam is a practical deen which holds the solution to every practical life problems. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was conveying the true message of Allah, as said in Quran:

"Nor does he speak of his own whims. It is only a revelation sent down to him." (53:3-4)

## (3) Inlay of life.

Islam guides us in every aspect of life whether it's concerned with individual or collective life. Islam holds instructions regarding every issue.

## (i) Individual life

- Birth (A culture of Azan, hageza)
  - up-bringing of a children.
  - Character building.
  - Basic rights (Education, Food, shelter).
  - Instructions about family
  - Rights of Parents.
  - Rights of neighbours or people around.
- In short, from one generation to another generation, it guides every aspect of life

## (ii) Collective life

- Social system.
- Political system (khilafat).
- Financial system.
- Justice system.
- Global affairs.

## (4) Islam promotes humanity.

### Humanity

can be defined as natural instincts with out any discrimination, spreading love, care, tolerance, sympathy and working for the welfare of man kind.

Humanity promotes fulfilment of Human rights, Animal rights and environment protection.

## (i) Character building:

Islam always teaches good habits and made us follow

Quran and Sunna. Islam inhibits every individual from wrong doings. One of prophet's hadiths which can be describe as the perfect among the believers are those who are best in

Character.

(ii) Charity.

Quran explicitly commands the giving of Zekat and emphasizes the importance of charity throughout its verses. Charity, including Zekat, is <sup>among</sup> one the five pillars of Islam.

As it is rightly said that effective Zekat system can remove poverty.

In Holy Quran, it is said:

"Righteousness is not in turning your faces towards the east or the west. Rather, the righteous are those who believe in Allah, the last day, the angels, the Books, and the prophets; who give Charity out of their cherished wealth to relatives, orphans, the poor, needy travellers, beggars and ----. It is they who are true in faith and it is they who are mindful of Allah". (2:177)



### (iii) Human rights.

Islam has shown great attention towards the rights of people around us. In Farewell sermon, Holy prophet guided muslim Ummah to end racism, nationalism, worship Allah, fast during month of Ramadan and Beware of Satan and guided Ummah on multiple aspects.

### (iv) Environmental protection.

Holy prophet guided us to protect environment. There are differentiated hadees regarding environment which are describe as:

(a) Planting a green tree is best charity.

(b) Do not cut green tree even if you are in case of war.

(c) Do not waste a single drop of water if you are sitting on a running stream.

### (5) Brotherhood.

The Holy Quran provides a frame work of social equality and universal brother hood.

'One muslim is like a building brick to the others; one part strengthen the others.' (Shahih Bukhari)

One of the hadees which can be best describe as Momin (true muslim) is the one who buy same thing for his brother which he buys for himself. Imam Jadiq says: "Muslims are brethren and serves as each other's eye and guide".

## (6) Prohibitions of certain things.

All kinds of intoxicating wines, liquors and spirits which effects human's ~~medial~~ mental ability are prohibited in Islam. These certain things affect the mind and causes distortion from the right path and enables an individual towards the wrong path.

## Conclusion:

Islam is a complete code of life which guides us, gives instructions regarding issues and enclose us in a well mannexed society. Islam is a mixture of Quran and Sunna.