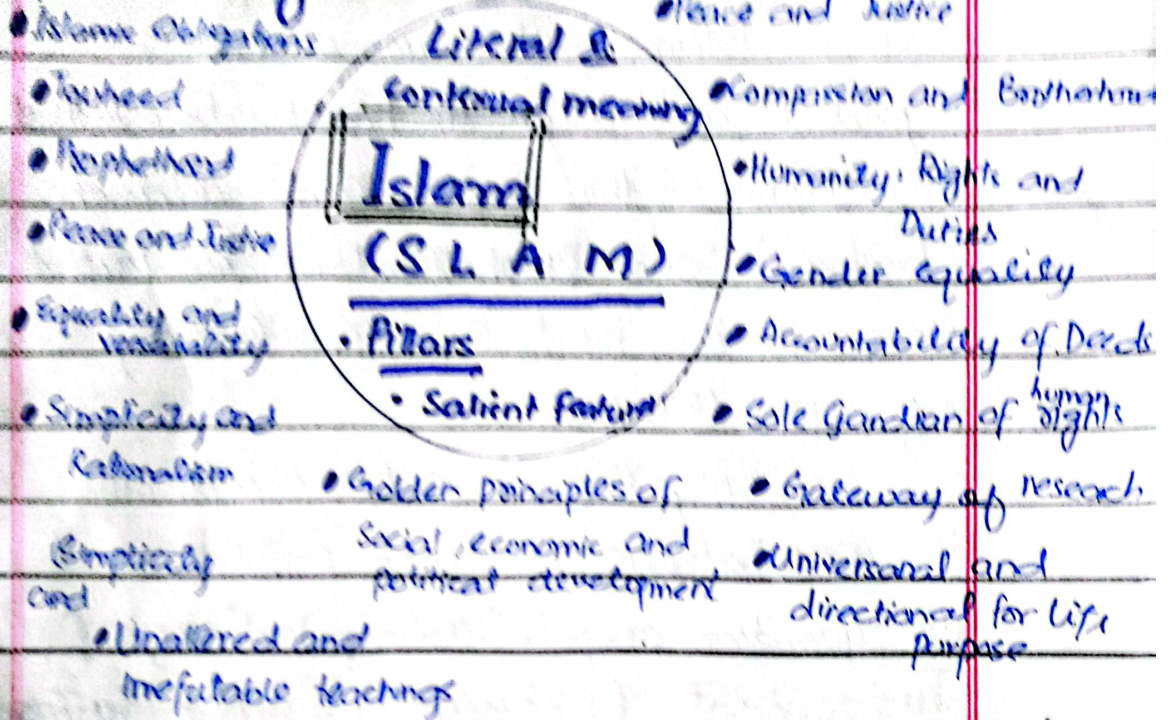


Assignment:

What is Islam? Enlist the salient features of Islam?



Islam:

It is an Arabic word meaning act of "resignation to Allah." SLM refers to peace. Mankind gets bestowed with utmost peace after subjugating his own will to Almighty Allah. Man who is sent to earth as the true representative of God Almighty enters peace after submitting himself before Allah willingly. Islam is not a forceful religion.

"There is no compulsion in religion" (Surah Baqarah)

Definition of Muslim:-

A person who submits himself to Allah and accepts to follow Deen-e-Islam in its true essence is regarded as Muslim. He has to believe that Allah Alone is the creator and sustainer (**Tauheed**) and **Prophethood** of all prophets. Along with it, he is to affirm finality of prophet (P.B.U.H).

Not only this, he is to accept all the **revelations** sent upon prophets and His guardian **angels (Malaiqa)** and **Day of Judgement (Akhirah)**. (**Iman Mufassal**)

One who accepts these pillars of Islam is known to have faith (**Iman**). In these is said to be a Muslim.

Deen-e-Islam : Muslim Definition

Iman on (Believes in)

- i). Oneness of Allah
- ii). Angels
- iii). Books
- iv). Messengers
- v). Last Day and fate Afterward
- vi). Finality of Prophet

Salient Features of Islam:

They are as follows

1. Oneness of Allah (Touheed): (Monotheism)

Touheed is the anchor sheet of Islam. It is the reason why Allah created us all. It is the reason where Islam stands unique than other religions which might have two or more Gods.

Hud said

Serve Allah there is no god
'but he' (7:65)

In another verse Allah said;

"We sent every community a prophet saying "Worship Allah and avoid false gods". (16:36)

Prophet Mohammad himself said that,

"I have been commanded to fight people until they accept that there is no god but Allah and Mohammad is His Prophet."

Surah Ikhlas always declares God's unity and Tawhid.

"Say, "He is Allah, the only one
Allah; the one taking care
of everything.

He did not give birth, he
was not born.

And he never had any equal
at all."

(Surah Al-Ikhlās - Quran)

2. Prophethood:

Prophethood synchronizes with
Risalah or messengership of Allah and
encampuses the means by which Allah
communicates with His creation. Thus belief
in the prophethood is the necessity of
Iman.

Mohammad is not the father
of one of your men, but
the messenger of Allah and
the Seal of Prophet. (33:40)

Nowadays, muslims are guided by
Quran and also by Hadiths - saying
of prophet and thus prophethood

continues to influence Muslims way of life. Also these prophets are perfect models of ideal human behaviours

"And the Prophet himself does not say anything, rather he says what he is commanded by Allah." (Hujrat)

At another place, Allah says in Quran.

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة

Prophet Mohammad is the best role model for you. (Quran) [8: 28]

3- Dignified Status of Man:-

Allah S.W.T

has sent man on this earth as a true representative of himself. Therefore he regards them as all unique and respectable.

And we have sent man as the true representative of thy Lord.

Last sermon of Holy Prophet also says,

An Arab has no superiority to non-Arab nor a non-Arab has a superiority to an Arab. A white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a black, except for piety and good action."

4. Islamic Obligations and Accountability

Islam is very vocal about its obligations and need to emphasize upon the performance of these as said by Allah and conveyed by His messengers. Allah says in Quran,

Do not associate others with Allah

(Al-Isra)

Honour your parents (23-24)

"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty" (26-31)

Offer salah and give Alms

(Bakarah)

Whoever has done, atom weight of a good will see it, and whoever has done an atom weight of evil will see it (Az - Zilzaal 7-8)

Not only this, but Allah also make believers accountable people who won't be able to fulfill these obligations

Simplicity, Rationality and Universality.

Islam is not at all any extremist religion as portrayed by many people from the west. It is really moderate and easy to follow.

Directional Aim in Life:

Islam define motive in life as Allah states,

I did not create Jinns and humans except for the purpose that they could worship me. (Az - Zariyat 56)

And we have sent you except to all mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. (Saba-28)

Islam doesnot promote extremism.

Addressing simplicity in Islam Alazraat Muhammad Abu Umamah reported; said,

Simple living is a part of

6. Complete Code of Life:

Undoubtedly, Islam has proved itself to be the complete code of life, encompassing all matters from individual to a whole community from political, religious, economic and even social matters and we should be indebted to Allah for selecting it as our religion. Allah states in Quran,

Today I've perfected your Deen for you, and have completed my blessings on you and have chosen for you Islam (as) a Din and complete code of life."

7. Peace and Justice, Harmony:

Islam plays a vital role in uniting the divided societies and promoting peace and harmony within them. Islam condemns killing of mankind. Allah says

Killing of a single man equals the killing of whole mankind.

(Maida: 32)

Also, we find examples from life of Prophet (PBUH) living peacefully even with his enemies as in treaty of Hudaibia.

And we have not sent you but mercy of all worlds. (Al Arabiyah: 107)

Islam literally means peace. A person finds peace while submitting himself to Allah Almighty. Those who have accepted Islam have entered peace.

8. Justice and Equality:

Islam has pronounced verdict on equality and equivalence. Allah says

Do not make any distinction on the basis of sex and believe in human equality. [49: 13]

Also, Islam being perfect model for Justice Prophet (P.B.U.H) said he would cut the hand of his own daughter if she would have committed the theft while stating punishment of thief "Say O' Mohammad My Lord has commanded Justice"

9. Unaltered and Irrefutable teaching:

- A Live miracle:

Allah himself has taken the responsibility of protecting and preserving Quran. He himself sends

We ourselves have sent down the zikr (Quran) and we are there to protect. (Al-Hijr)9.

That is why teachings of Islam are still present in its true essence.

And it is nothing less than a miracle like it is same as it was sent 1400 years ago.

10. Torchbearers of Ideal model behaviour

In order to teach Muslims His teachings practically Allah S.W.T sent his messengers to be a role model for all of us. As Allah states in Quran.

To obey Allah, is to obey Mohammed.

In another verse;

If you should love Allah, then follow me, ^(Mohammed) Say Obey Allah and the messenger. (3:31-32)

11. Compassion and Moderation:

Islam focuses on the moderation and compassion for all regardless of caste, colour or creed. In fact Holy Prophet used to call his servants as Ummu Yamin "Oh mother."

It is also stated that,
Certainly all Muslims
are brothers.

Allama Iqbal said

"Take religion away from politics
and you have despotism."

Gandhi wanted to follow Hazrat Umar's footsteps to
establish democracy in India

12. Gateway of research; logic and reasoning

Islam is a religion which has
made acquisition of education mandatory for
all, regardless of gender and status.

Its mandatory to seek knowledge
from cradle to grave.

Islam has acknowledged those who think and
do reasoning. Allah has created this universe
and has ordered us to ponder and discover
its hidden wonders. Even the first revelation
bestowed upon by Hazrat Mohammad was

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

"Read in the name of thy
Lord who created." (Al Alaq)

In Surah Juma Allah says;

"Those who know and those who

do not know are they equal."

13. Societal Rights and Duties.

- 1-Parents rights
- 2-Rights to Life
- 3-Sibling rights
- 4-Relative rights
- 11 Orphans
- 9-Servant rights
- 10-Neighbour rights
- 5-Children rights
- 6-Spouse rights
- 7-Teacher rights
- 8-Women rights

Islam - a **sole guardian of Human Rights**

(Quran)

Be good to your parents and do not kill your children because of poverty, we will give provision to you and them. Islam being the perfect religion showcases every

ones rights and duties. Talking about mother rights. **Paradise lies at the feet of mother.**

Prophet (P.B.U.H) was so loving towards kids he used to offer new fruit to the youngest kid at the time. In his last sermon, emphasizing on the fair treatment of servants he said;

Your servants are like your brothers, treat them fairly, feed them what you feed yourself, wear them what you wear your ownself.

At various places Allah stressed upon rights of neighbours, siblings and orphans.

14. Gender equality:

Islam being the religion of equality focuses on the eradication of

of discrimination based upon gender. Islam has made women enjoy a high prestigious status

Does not make any distinction on the basis of sex and believes in human equality. [49:13]

"Muslim women are first and foremost Muslims, the religious equals of men." (33:73)

15. Promotes Character Building:

Islam being a perfect role model religion focuses on instilling positive values and morals and carving best character out of it. Prophet Mohammad said,

I have been sent to perfect good character.

He further said;

"Act of kindness protect one from ruin
,evil wrought by evil,"

16. Golden rules of social and economic life

Islam calls every individual as a responsible to all other members of a society and society to be responsible to all other citizens. Islamic socialization encourages all customs, traditions to be followed according to divine relations.

The believers men and women are protectors of one another. (9:71)

Islam being the torchbearer of Islamic practicality and economic norms ask to solve financial matters in light of Quran and Sunnah. Forbade from riba and pay Zakat. Hazrat Mohammad while addressing it said, **May Allah's mercy be on him who is lenient in his buying, selling, demanding his debts** (Bukhari)

17. Spiritual insights and Guidance:

Islam

being the only religion guiding Muslims in every walk of life and showing them token to Jannah if they practice all the divine teachings of Quran and Sunnah. Spiritual insights not only help develop strong bond with Allah but also guide them whenever they need any guidance.

Allah assures his followers; (Surah Ash-Sharh 94)

For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.

so we should not give up no matter how big the suffering feels. Allah himself reminds us

Allah does not charge a soul

except (with that within) capacity (Al-Quran)

and with every difficulty there is a relief (

18. Insight to Foreign relations and Political Norms:

by Islam also help us guide to our foreign relations. Hazrat Mohammad himself was advised to establish good relations even with his enemies. Hazrat Mohammad ^{said,}
Do not desire an encounter with your enemy, but when you encounter them be firm.

19. Preservation of environment:

Allah (S.W.T) has enforced on preservation of nature and environment. Tree plantation is also regarded a good virtue religiously. Not only human rights are mandatory but rather all living things and environment has duties towards it. Allah says;

And do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption." (2:60)

Muhammad, the messenger of Allah said.

Do not kill a woman, a child, or an old man, and do not burn palms or crops.

So, it is not permissible to exploit environment even in the times of battles. **Cleanliness is half of faith.**

20 Halal Livelihood in Islam:-

Man has been given a right to earn livelihood through legal means; not harming oneself and others.

Prophet Mohammad focuses on importance of paying employee on time. He said;
"Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries."

Another hadith signifies halal income;
"The purest food is that which you earn from your own money."
(Hadith)

20. Financial Religious Service - Zakat.

Islam stresses upon the circulation of wealth so that it could not be accumulated in one hand rather it should be distributed. Allah Pak Himself addresses it. Hazrat Mohammad also highlighted it as
"Sadqa extinguishes a sin as water extinguish fire."

System of Zakat is introduced in order to proliferate wealth. In Surah Baqarah Allah states;

واقِيمِزَالصَّلَاةِ وَالزَّكَاةِ

Establish prayer and give Zakat.

This is how system of finances is maintained in our religion.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, Islam is a complete code of life which establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism. It holds everyone accountable for his deeds in front of Allah thus establishing a civilized society. Not only it guarantee fundamental human rights and punishes if anyone trying to tamper it. Thus it provides role models with not only conveys message of Allah to his creation but also set practical examples of how to follow Islam in its true sense. Also the concept of Ijitehad has been prime importance till date.