Assignment 1:
Islamic Studies

Question:

What is Islam? Ellaborate the salient features of Islam?

Meaning OF Islam:-

The literal meaning of Islam is to **Submitting**, **Surrender** to the will of God. Islam is an arabic word that denotes the following terms Submission, Surrender and Obedience. As a religion, Islam stands for complete submission and Obedience to the God. That is why it is called **"Islam."**

The Other literal meaning of Islam is **"peace."** This signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through the submission

and obedience to "Allah."

Such a life of obedience bring peace of the heart and establishes the real peace in society at large.

> "Islam is a way of life which opens the heart to the meaning of existence."

In Shariah, the meaning of Islam is same as mentioned above but with the addition of one word that is "Voluntary." The submission of one's own desire for the sake of Allah including one's own will without any pressure.

> "There Shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong."
>
> Surah Baqarah (Ayat 256)

Allah provide us freedom to choose and follow any religion. But ultimately we will be held accountable to God in next life for the choices that we make in this life. It depends on us that what we have choose. Allah provide us complete guidance in the form of Holy Book (Quran) and His Holy Prophet (PBUH).

There are two pathways of life. One is right and one is wrong, it's our choice to choose in between them.

Islam: A Universal Deen:-

Islam is a universal deen. It acknowledge us regarding different aspects of life. It is universal because it guides us in every matter of life. It is not for a

limited time. It is not confined to a specific geography. It can be seen at the occassion of **"Hajj"** where people belonging to different countries accumulate at the same place for the **"sake of God."**

> The believers of Allah at the occassion of Hajj reflects the beauty of Islam."

Islam is universal because it is same for all. It is equal to every man.

"Islam is a complete code of life."

Salient Features OF Islam:-

Following features of Islam are:

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Unique Concept OF Tauheed:-

In Islam, there is unique concept of tauheed. Tauheed means "oneness" and "uniqueness." Tauheed means that there is absolutely no one worthy of worship other that Allah. The comprehensive concept of Tauheed is given in the Surah Al-Ikhlas.

"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only: Allah, the Eternal, Absolute. He begets not nor is He begotten. And there is none comparable to him."

Tauheed means oneness of Allah. There is no God except Allah. To became a muslim, it is compulsory to believe in the concept of Tauheed.

"Tauheed is first chapter of Islamic syllabus."

2- Prophethood:-

Prophethood is the second unique feature of Islam. To became a muslim, it is also compulsory to believe in Prophethood. Allah gives us Quran (the complete guide) through his Prophet (PBUH). Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is his last prophet and Allah complete his deen toward us. Prophethood is the second chapter of Islamic Syllabus. It also indudes the believe in "finality of Prophethood."

The second part of Kalma-e-Tayyaba is:

"Muhammad (P.B.UH) is the Messenger of Allah."

Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the Prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, knowing.

(Surah Ahzab Ayat 40)

3. ## Universal Code of Life:-

Islam is unique as it is universal. It acknowledge us about every event of our life. It guides us in individual as well as collective life. It gives knowledge, guidance, information regarding following:

a. ## Upbringing Of Children:

Islam provide us knowledge regarding the birth, upbringing and the death of child. The

upbringing of child is very important regarding Islamic point of view. After birth, the Azan was given in the ear of child in order to start his journey in this world with the name of "Almighty Allah." For the upbringing of child, the first institute is his "mother" and the second institute is his "family".

b- <u>Character Building :-</u>

Islam teaches us regarding the character building of person. The real identity of a person is his character which reflect his honesty, behavior towards other, care for others.

Hazrat Ali (R·A) said,

No Mirror can reflect a picture of a Human as best as his Attitude and way of speaking do.

The importance of character-building is reflecting from this verse.

وقولو الناس حسنا

And speak to people kindly.

c- Education:-

The importance of education can easily seen through the hadees of Prophet (P·B·U·H)· The Prophet (P·B·U·H) said::

"The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every muslim."

Al-Tirmidhi Hadith 74

"A father gives his child nothing better than a good education."

d- livelihood:-

It is necessary for every man to earn money to meet his daily

needs or requirement. It is the responsibility of every man to earn lawfully and fulfil the necessities of life. Islam teaches us to earn in correct and lawful manner and run our life smoothly. Prophet (PBUH) said:

Seeking a lawful livelihood is incumbent upon every muslim man and woman.

e- Collective Life:-

Islam give us complete guidance about collective life including family members, marriage life, rights of mother and father, rights of human beings. It provide us guidance from one generation to next generation. It help us in every matter regarding personal as well as collective life.

And whoever relies upon Allah,
Allah is enough for them.

Quran 65:3

4 Islam Promotes Humanity:-

Humanity means Human love and compassion towards each other. Humanity includes love, care, sympathy for others without any discrimination. It also includes the protection of human rights, love and care for human and animals also. Islam is a Universal Deen, as it promotes humanity in every country, state and among all the humans including muslims and non-muslims. Islam teaches us a lesson of love, brotherhood, care, humanity for all humans. There is no discrimination among humans in the religion, Islam.

"A Muslim Shall never leave another muslim helpless in the time of need."

Prophet (PBUH)

5- Provide Strength to Man:-

Islam makes the man strong to compete with his problems and never be dishearted. Islam teaches us that if you are correct, don't worry, Allah is always with you.

And be patient, for Surely Allah is with the patient.

Surah Al-Anfal
Verse 46

It provide us strength to face the hardships and be patient. We will believe in that Allah will reward us whether in this world or the world hereafter.

"Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear."