

Q#1:

# Islam ~ A Complete Code of Life: Salient Features of Islam

## 1. Introduction

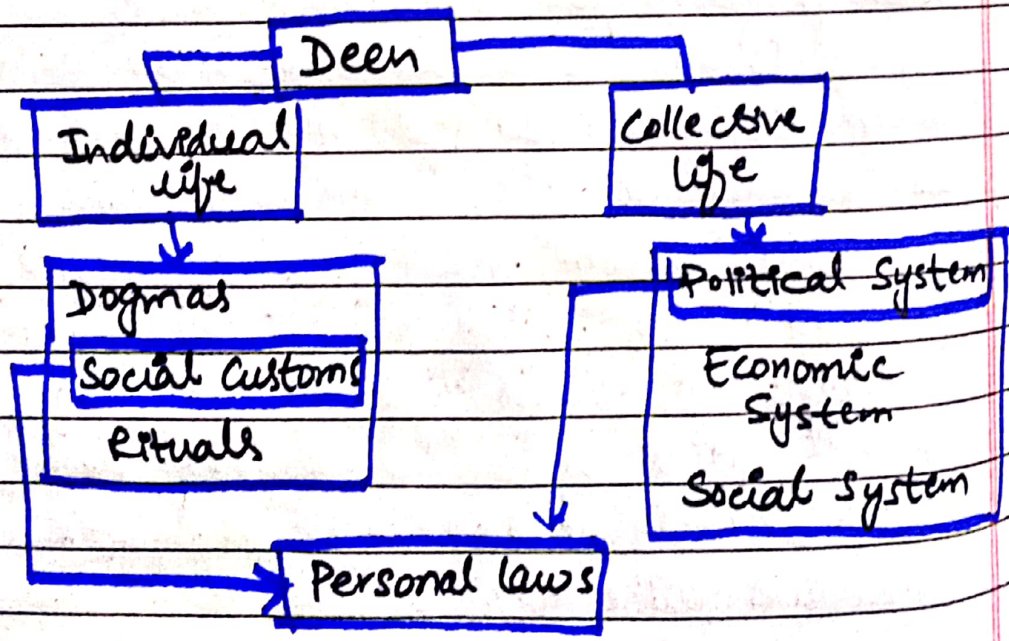
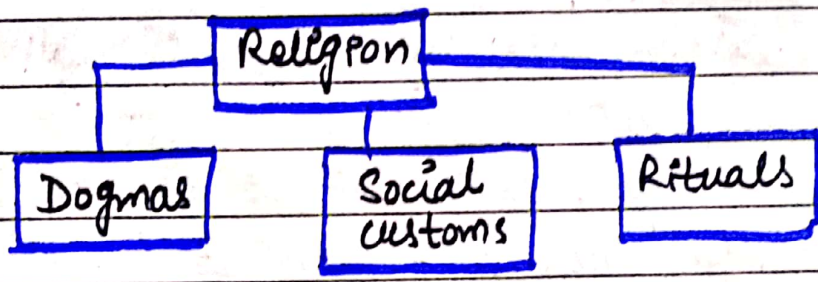
اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم واتممت تكميل نعمتي

"This day, I have perfected your deen for you, and completed my favour upon you."

Islam is a complete deen which covers sacred matters as well as secular affairs. Islam encompasses a belief system which has a concept of worship to fulfil the spiritual and metaphysical needs of individual life. Other religions in the world only address the individual relation with God with features like dogmas but Deen Islam is the religion which deals with the social, moral, legal, economic, political, national and international level affairs. Its divinely ideology, characteristics like practicality, universality, unity of spirit and balance between individual and society make it unique from other religions.

## 2. Islam ~ A Deen Rather than A Religion

Islam is a complete deen while other religions are based on dogmas, rituals and social customs, Islam entails the sacred and mundane matters and their rules. Islam deals with the individual life as well as collective life.



## 3. Distinct Features of Islam

Islam's pillars are Tauheed, prayers, fasting, to perform Hajj and to pay zakat. Pillars of Islam itself describe the uniqueness of religion.

The oneness of God and the prayers are for the individual salvation whereas the practice of performing Hajj and paying of zakat also covers the social aspect of Islam.

According to George Bernard Shaw in his book 'The Genuine Islam'

I have always held the religion of Muhammad<sup>ﷺ</sup> at high estimation due to its vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess the assimilating capacity to the changing phases of existence which can make itself appeal to every age.

## 1) Revealed Ideology

Islam is a divinely ideology revealed on Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup>. Islam is not a religion fabricated by some man but is a divine religion. Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> used to have revelation by Allah. Once Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> was asked about the genuinity of Quran, he responded by saying, if anyone of you can write one Ayah like it.

## b) Simplicity, Rationality and Practicality

Islam is a religion without any mythology. It believes in rational thinking and practicality. Its basic building blocks are Tauheed, Prophethood and life after death; these blocks itself are rational and acceptable to rational thinking. They are based on reason and sound logic. Furthermore, Islam preaches and has emphasized the importance of knowledge.

وقل رب زدني علما -

O my Lord! Increase me in my knowledge. (Taha)

### (i) Importance of Education

In the event of Badar, Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) set condition for prisoners to teach the Muslims to get freedom.

### Importance of Education according to Quran

Quran emphasizes to acquire knowledge on different occasions.

قل هل يستوي الذين يعلمون ولا الذين لا يعلمون

Say: Are those who know and who do not know alike?

(AlQur'an)

### e) Unity of matter and spirit

A unique feature of Islam is that it does not divide life into watertight compartments.

In Christianity, nuns devote their life to worship God and abandon worldly affairs.

In stark contrast to this, Islam emphasizes the integration into world with worshipping God. Islam allows man to hold wealth with some principles. Similarly, Islam does not ask for asceticism.

ربنا اتنا في الدنيا حسنة وفي الآخرة حسنة وقنا عذاب النار -

(القرآن)

Our Lord! make this world better for us and give us something good in the hereafter.

## d) Balance between Individual and Society

Islam gives balance between individual and society. Allah asks man to work to improve his life. There are fundamental rights for every human which cannot be tapped by others.

ان الله لا يغير ما بقوم حتى يغير ما بانفسهم  
(القرآن)

Surely, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change their own conditions.

## e) Universality and Humanism

The message of Islam is for the whole human race. God in Islam is all of the world and Prophet ﷺ is for the whole mankind.

وما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين  
(القرآن)

we have sent you as mercy for everyone in the universe.

## 6) Preservation of Quran by Allah

Islam is the last religion in the world and its teachings are preserved. Quran is preserved in the book as well as in the hearts of number of Muslims across the world.

We have sent you this book  
and took the responsibility  
(Al Quran)

Nor a single letter of Quran been changed and every word is preserved. This put it in a distinct position with other religions where Christians and Jew's Holy Books are not the same as revealed.

## 4- Conclusion:

Islam is a complete Deen and encompasses characteristics like universality, practicality, preserved form, simplicity, rationality and distinctly knowledge. It makes the Deen distinct from other religions like Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. Islam focuses on individual as well as collective life of people. Allah has made man accountable for his dealings with other fellow beings.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
thus making it a complete deed  
to be followed.

Q#2:

Philosophy of Prayer, its  
Types ~ Spiritual, moral, social  
Impacts

### 1. Introduction

The prayer is the second pillar of faith. Prayer has been emphasized in Islam to this extent that it is said to be the distinguishing feature between a muslim and non-muslim. Prayer enables person to follow a discipline in life; furthermore, it saves a person from sinful activities. Prayer is not only a worship which builds the individual life but it has a great influence on collective life of people.

واقموا الصلوة وادوا الزكوة

And be steadfast in prayer and  
pay off zakat.

(Al Quran)

Prayer enlightens the man by  
alleviating his sufferings and builds



a strong connection between man and God. Reason being, it is called the medium of communication between man and God.

## 2. Philosophy of Prayer

### a) Definition:

Salat is an Arabic word whose basic meaning is "bowing, homage". Salat is a worship to bow before Allah and build connection.

### b) Importance in Quran

Quran emphasized the prayer on different occasions.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ  
(القرآن)

O who believe! Seek assistance through patience and prayer.

### c) Importance in Hadith

According to Holy Prophet  
He who deliberately neglects an obligatory prayer, Allah is absolved of him.

This reflects the importance of prayer for a Muslim.

### 3. Types of Prayers

Salah may be classified into four categories

- ① Fard
- ② Wajib
- ③ Sunnah
- ④ Nafil

#### i) Fard Prayer

Fard are further divided into Fard-e-Kifaya and Fard-e-ayn. The latter are for those person will be held accountable. Former are those if some one follows from Muslim, no other will be blameworthy.

#### ii) Wajib Prayer

Wajib prayers include salat ul Eid and Salat ul Witr.

#### iii) Sunnah Prayer

Sunnah prayer are those performed by Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> and Ummah follows them.

#### iv) Nafil

Nafil salah are voluntary and can be prayed. They cannot be offered at sunrise, true noon or sunset.

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## Spiritual Aspects of Prayer

### a) Psychological Stability

Prayer gives a man with necessary peace of mind the needs from the daily life. It gives man a medium to talk with Allah and shed tears in front of him.

### b) Purification of soul

Prayer gives spiritual purification and cleanliness.

"Surely, Allah loves those who turn much to Him and He loves those who purify themselves."  
(AlQuran)

### c) Check against evil and indecency

Prayer inculcates the fear of God which is necessary to be kept alive.

ان الصلوة تنهى عن الفحشاء والمنكر  
(القرآن)

"Salah prevents man from evil and lewdness."

## 5) Moral Impacts of Prayer

### a) Patience and perseverance

Prayer develops in man qualities such as patience, endurance, contentment and perseverance.

### b) Prayer makes a person disciplined

Person learns the value of time by worshipping five times a day on designated times. Prayer instil discipline into a person and he learns to be punctual.

### c) Sense of honour and independence ~ a defining characteristic of prayer

Prayers give a person strength to face the difficulties of life as he knows that every difficulty is by Allah and only He can resolve his problems. This make a man independent from worldly fears and give them honour. In conversation with his God, man can tell his fears to God.

## 6. Social Impacts of Prayer

a) Prayers build mutual cooperation and social strength

Prayer in congregation has rewards 70 times than praying alone.

Hadees

while praying in congregation, Muslims can build social harmony. Their contact five times a day with one another make them closer and aware of problems of one another.

## 7. Conclusion

Prayer is an essential pillar of Islam which not only builds a person individually but also serves a purpose of collective relationships. Prayers build peace of mind, value of time, sense of honour, psychological stability and mutual consultation. Consequently, a man feel confident on individual level and on society. Prayer inculcates the fear of God and saves person from all evils.

Q# 3

# Diplomatic Career of Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup>

## 1. Introduction

The Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> was a diplomat par excellence who was engaged in various diplomatic activities. Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> not only dealt with the leaders of Arabian Peninsula but also sent his leaders and ambassadors beyond the boundaries.

According to Dr Michael Hart my placing of Muhammad<sup>ﷺ</sup> on top at the most influential persons list will surprise many, but he was the only person supremely successful on religious and secular levels.

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> illustrated his diplomatic capabilities before prophethood. Due to Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> unique approaches, he managed to preach Islam and increase the circle/field of Islam.

## 2. Diplomatic Activities at Makkah

a) In Makkah, the diplomatic activities made Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> achieve title of Sadiq and Ameen

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> was known as Sadiq and Ameen, even those who did not enter the field of Islam, respected Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup>.

b) Hily al Fadul

Hily al Fazul was a alliance created by Makkans, being part of this pact, Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> after proclaiming Islam, still acknowledge it.

c) Muslims migration to Abyssinia

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> received stiff opposition from the leading tribe of Makkah, the Quraish. Muslims were tortured by Makkans. Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> sent fifteen Muslims to Abyssinia to seek protection under Negus - Quraish sent people to chase them but they managed to flee. Jafar Ibn Abi Talib<sup>ؓ</sup> as a representative of Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> spoke of later's<sup>ﷺ</sup> achievement and explained the features of Islam. Negus, greatly impressed by teachings embraced the people. It was Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> diplomacy to send Jafar Ibn Abi Talib<sup>ؓ</sup>, recognizing his art

of watery.

### 3. Diplomatic Activities at Medina

#### i) Mithaq-e-Madina (622)

"The community of Medina become a new community with the Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> as their President."

(Bernard Lewis)

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> upon migration to Medina, first judiciously resolve the matter of settlement of Muhajireen.

Mithaq-e-Madina is considered as the first charter of human history.

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> managed to reach an agreement with Ansar of Medina by declaring Ansar and Muhajirin as brothers.

#### ii) Treaty of Hudaibiya

In 628, Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> with intention of performing Umrah set out with a group of 1400 companions. However, they were approached by people sent by Makkans.



Therefore, a series of negotiation began with the Quraish. Usman bin Affan<sup>ra</sup> was chosen as envoy of Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Upon reaching a rumour of martyrdom of Usman bin Affan<sup>ra</sup>, Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and companion pledged to take revenge. Soon afterwards, rumour came untrue, and a pact was signed while pilgrims returned without performing Umrah.

#### 4. Correspondence with foreign Leaders

During the time when conclusion of Treaty of Hudaibiya was bringing peace and security to the Muslims.

They sent a number of envoys to several heads of states, including the great ruler of Rome.

King of Egypt, King of Rome and Governor of Yamama venerated but did not accept Islam. However, King of Abyssinia, Governor of Bahrain and King of Oman entered the field of Islam.

#### 5. Critical Analysis

However, the Treaty of Hudaibiya seemed unfavorable in the start to the companions who left without performing Umrah but it gave fruitful results after some time.

It was the Treaty of Hudaibiya due to which many people of Makkah felt secured and Islam's influence increased. It was Treaty of Hudaibiya due to which later Muslims conquered Makkah. Furthermore, the diplomatic qualities of Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> can be observed by the selection of Jafar Ibn Abi Taleb<sup>ؓ</sup> as a representative of Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> during migration to Abyssinia.

## 6. Conclusion

Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup> was a diplomat par excellence. With his diplomacy, the positive picture of Islam spread rapidly. He was able to convince the rulers of kingdoms. He<sup>ﷺ</sup> was not only successful in Muslims but also he managed to be popular among non-Muslims. He<sup>ﷺ</sup> did not break the pacts even with the non-Muslims, reason being he<sup>ﷺ</sup> was supremely successful diplomat.

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