

Question: Explain the system of good governance in the era of pious caliphates. What were the main principles to run the government at that time?

### 1- Introduction:

During the era of the pious caliphates, a system of governance characterized by justice, accountability, and consultation was established. This system, rooted in Islamic principles and ethics, aimed to ensure the welfare and prosperity of the Muslim community. The main principles governing this system included adherence to the Quran and Sunnah as the primary sources of law, equitable distribution of resources, accessibility of leaders to the people, and consultation (shura) in decision-making. These principles guided the caliphs in their administration, fostering an environment of good governance marked by transparency, accountability, and the pursuit of the common good.

### ii- Good Governance and its indicators:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) defines good governance as the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels.

Good governance indicators encompass various dimensions, including political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, control of corruption, voice and accountability, and citizen participation.



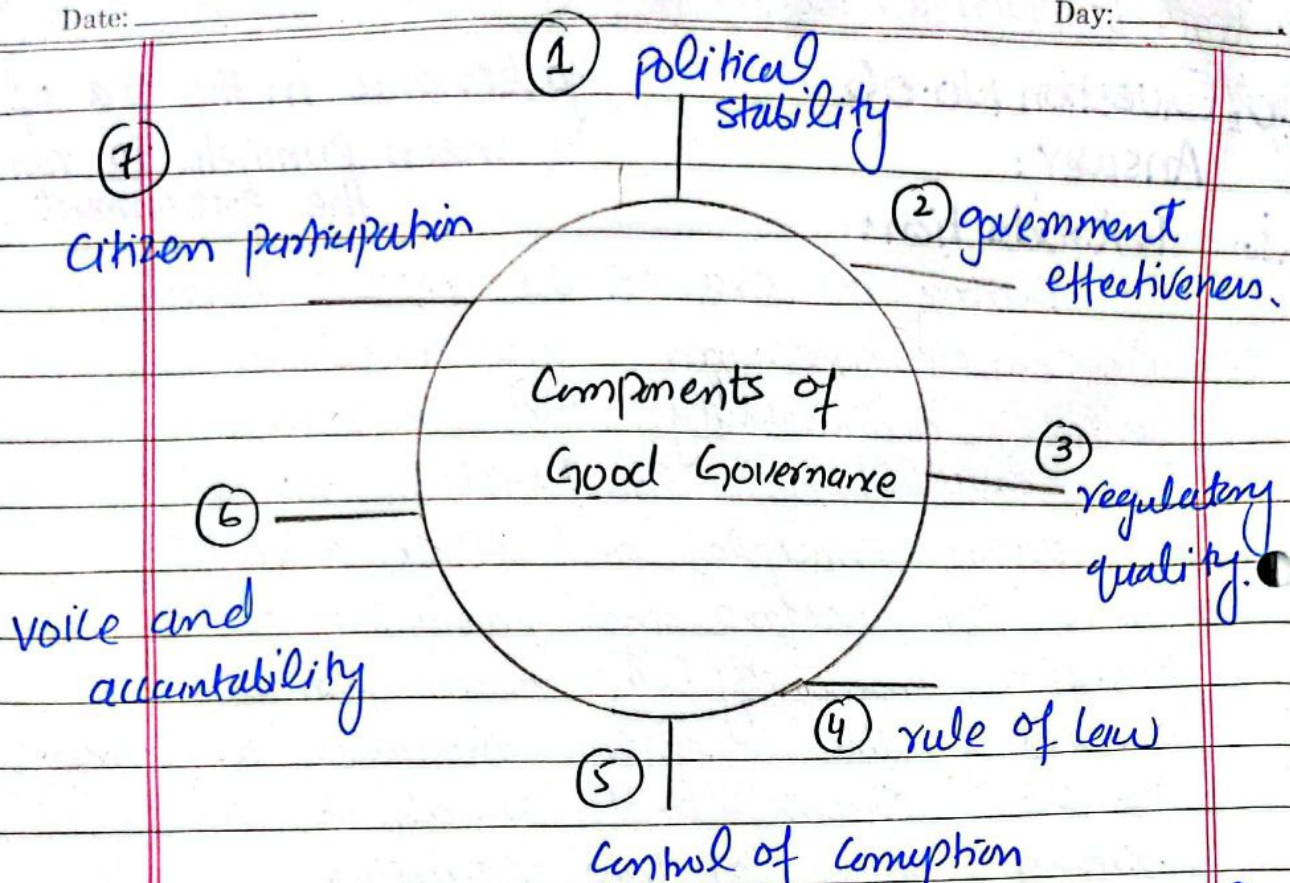


Fig i: Indicators of Good Governance by UNDP

### iii- Good Governance in the Era Pious Caliphates:

#### 1- Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A): First caliph of Islam:

Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A), the first caliph of Islam, focused on consolidating the Islamic state and maintaining unity among the Muslim community. He emphasized the importance of upholding the rule of law and justice, setting a precedent for subsequent rulers.



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## 2- Hazrat Umar Ibn al-Khattab (R.A): Second Caliph of Islam:

Hazrat Umar Ibn al-Khattab (R.A), known for his strict adherence to justice and equality, implemented various administrative reforms to ensure effective governance. He established a comprehensive system of governance, including the appointment of qualified governors and judges and introduced policies to address socio-economic inequalities.

Hazrat

## 3- Usman Ibn Affan (R.A): Third Caliph of Islam

Hazrat Usman Ibn Affan (R.A), during his caliphate, emphasized the importance of fiscal responsibility and efficient administration. He oversaw the expansion of the Islamic empire and invested in infrastructure development, including the construction of roads and water systems, to improve the quality of life for citizens.

## 4- Hazrat Ali Ibn Talib (R.A): Fourth Caliph of Islam.

Hazrat Ali Ibn Talib (R.A), known for his commitment to social justice and equality, focused on promoting the welfare of the marginalized and vulnerable segments of society. He prioritized the welfare programs, principles of consultation



and consensus in decision-making.

①

Hazrat Abu Bakr (R.A)

(First Caliph)

- Consolidating Islamic state
- Rule of law and justice

②

Hazrat Umar Ibn al-Khattab (R.A)

(Second Caliph)

- Justice and Equality
- Administrative Reforms
- Policies related to socio-economic issues.

③

Hazrat Ibn Affan (R.A)

(Third Caliph)

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Efficient Administration
- Infrastructure Development

④

Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talib (R.A)

(Fourth Caliph)

- Social justice and equality
- Welfare programs
- Principles of consultation and consensus in decision making.

Fig ii: Good Governance in The era of Pious Caliphates



#### iv. Main Principle of Good Governance to run the government:

##### 1- Attainment of Piety: A Cornerstone of good governance

Attainment of piety as a feature/principle of good governance entails upholding righteousness, honesty and moral integrity in all aspects of governance which is crucial to run the government in the present times.

##### 2- Authority is the Trust of Allah: A Beacon of good governance

In Islamic governments/governance, leaders are expected to recognize that their authority is derived from Allah and they are obligated to use it for the betterment of society and the fulfillment of their duties as stewards of this trust.

##### 3- Consultation in government Affairs:

Consultation or shura is a fundamental element of good governance in Islam. It involves seeking advice and consensus from knowledgeable individuals before making decisions. According to Holy Quran,

"And Consult Them in The Affairs"  
(3: 159)



4: **Rule of Law (Adl):** A principle of good governance

The element of Adl or rule of law is a central to the structure of good governance in Islam. It entails upholding the rule of law and ensuring equitable treatment for all members of society, regardless of their status and background. According to Holy Quran:

" O who believe! stand out firmly for justice."

(4: 135)

5- **Protection of Basic fundamental rights:**

In Islamic governance, it is imperative to safeguard the fundamental rights of all individuals, regardless of their background, belief, and social status which is essential to run the governmental affairs efficiently.

V- **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the era of pious Caliphates exemplified a system of governance grounded in Islamic principles of justice, equity and consultation. The Caliphs prioritized adherence to the Quran and Sunnah, ensuring fairness and accountability in their administration. By emphasizing transparency, accountability, and the welfare



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of all citizens, they established a model of good governance that balanced spiritual and temporal responsibilities.

This governance framework not only fostered social harmony and economic prosperity but also laid the foundation for a just and enduring Islamic society.