

Q. Write a short note on the following:
(i) Ijtihad (ii) Accountability in Islam

(i) - Ijtihad:

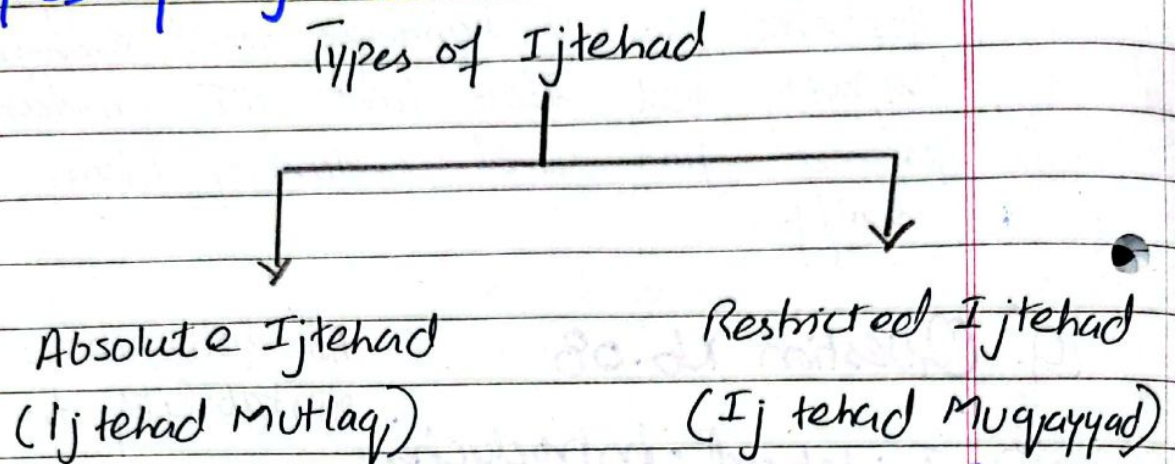
Ijtihad is a Islamic legal term referring to independent reasoning to deduce legal rulings from the fundamental texts of Islam, the Quran and the Sunnah. It derived from the Arabic word 'jihad' which means effort or endeavor, ijtihad plays a crucial role in adapting Islamic law to changing circumstances and new issues that arise over time.

- Principles and conditions:

For ijtihad to be valid, several conditions must be met. The mujtahid (one who performs ijtihad) must possess a deep understanding of the Quran, the sunnah, consensus (ijma) and analogy (qiyas). They must be well-versed in Arabic language, Islamic theology, and jurisprudence principles. Ijtihad is typically applied in situations where explicit texts (naw) do not provide

clear guidance, necessitating a reasoned interpretation.

- Types of Ijtihad.



i) Absolute Ijtihad (Ijtihad Mutlaq):

This refers to a independent reasoning by a scholar who meets the highest qualifications of mujtahid, capable of deriving legal rulings without relying on any particular school of thought.

ii) Restricted Ijtihad (Ijtihad Muqayyad):

This involves reasoning within the framework of a established legal school (madhhab), adhering to its fundamental principles while deriving new rulings.

- Conclusion:

Ijtihad represents a vital aspect of Islamic jurisprudence, embodying the intellectual effort to apply divine guidance to contemporary circumstances.

By Balancing tradition with reason and interpretation, ijtihad ensures that Islamic law remains relevant and responsive, preserving its fundamental values while addressing the complexities of modern life.

ii - Accountability in Islam:

Accountability in Islam is a fundamental principle that encompasses both personal and societal responsibilities. It is rooted in the belief that every individual will be held accountable by Allah for their actions and intentions on the Day of judgement. This concept encourages ethical behavior, justice and integrity in all aspects of life, ensuring that Muslims uphold moral and social duties with sincerity and diligence.

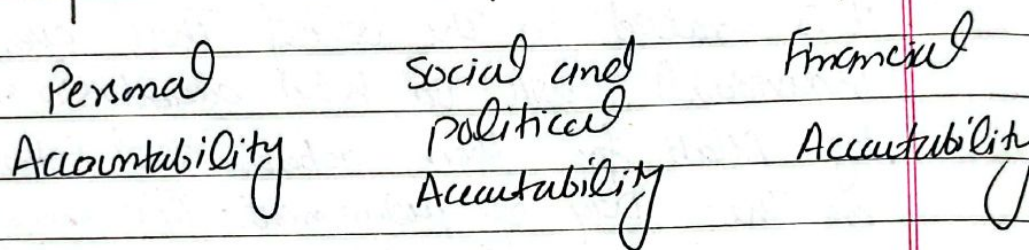
- Mechanism of Accountability in Islam:
Islam establishes several mechanisms to ensure accountability:

i) **Muraqabah**: Continuous self-monitoring and awareness of God's presence.

ii) **Hisbah**: Public accountability where individuals and authorities are responsible for enjoining good and forbidding evil within the society.

iii- **Qada:** The judicial system in Islam, which ensures that justice is served and rights are protected. Judges (Qadis) are held to high ethical standards and are accountable for their decisions.

- Types of Accountability in Islam:



i- Personal Accountability:

In Islam, personal accountability is emphasized through the concept of taqwa (God-consciousness). Muslims are encouraged to be mindful of their actions, knowing that Allah is aware of everything they do.

ii- Social and Political Accountability:

Accountability extends to social and political spheres, where leaders and authorities are expected to govern with justice and fairness. The second caliph, Umar Ibn al-Khattab, exemplified this by his transparent and just leadership, often inviting public scrutiny of his actions.

iii-

Financial Accountability:

In financial matters, Islam emphasizes transparency, honesty and fairness. The prohibition of Riba (Interest) and encouragement of ethical trade practices ensures that economic activities are conducted with integrity. Zakat is also the example of financial accountability, redistributing wealth to support those in need and purify one's earnings.

- Conclusion:

Accountability in Islam is a comprehensive principle that permeates every aspect of a Muslim's life. By instilling a deep sense of responsibility towards Allah and society, it promotes ethical behavior, justice and social welfare. This framework of accountability helps create a balance and harmonious society where individuals and leaders alike are conscious of their duties and strive to fulfill them with integrity and fairness.