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Islamic Studies - 1st Quarter

Question #1:

Discuss the concept of Islam and its importance in human life. Explain the difference between Deen and Religion and analyze how the fundamentals shape both individuals and Society.

Start with the summary of the answer as introduction

Answer:

(1) Concept of Islam

Islam is an Arabic word derived from three root words (S, L, M) س ل م. Literal meaning of Islam is, to surrender, submission and commitment.

It means the submission of oneself to God and to obey his commands.

The name Islam was mentioned in the Quran. It is neither a new religion nor a man-made religion.

Essence of Islam:

Islam is a monotheistic religion, which states that there is only one God to be worshiped and to obey.

In Islam, the Arabic word "Allah" is used for God.

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) narrates:

"Submission means that you accept that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad

(S.A.W) is the messenger of

Allah and perform ritual

prayers, pay zakat, fast

during the month of Ramadhan

and so perform Hajj, if you

are capable to go there"

2 → Importance of Islam in human life:

Islam is complete code of life. Every aspect of human life is covered in Islam. It is religion revealed by Allah.

(i) Religion of truth

Islam is a religion of truth, which means that everything discussed in divine source is in its accurate form can be used without any doubt. William Muir in his book, The Life of Muhammad states that everything found in Quran is in its accurate form as it was in the time of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

(ii) Divine Religion

Other religions were named after their founders, such as Buddhism and Sikhism.

However, Islam is a divine religion revealed by Allah in his last Book: Quran.

(iii) A complete Guide:

Islam is not a Deen of fictions and stories but it a religion based on truth that covers the every aspect of human life. Starting from the birth till death, every single moment can be guided by Islam. It also emphasises what to do and what to not, Quran and the life of Prophet Muhammad are the prime sources for the one who wants success in this world and hereafter.

Try to add the Arabic of quranic ayats.

"Say, Only Allah's guidance is of the truth"

(Quran)

(iii) A clear concept of God to follow and to worship.

Islam is a monotheistic religion. In Islam there is clearly stated not to add anyone with Allah and to worship only him.

"There is no God but Allah" (Quran)

Allah is alone in his abilities and he is the sustainer of the universe. He is only worth praying and to ask (Dua).

(2) Difference between Deen and Religion

(i) Religion:

Religion or Mazhab comes from the Arabic word 'Zahab' which means to go, pass and walk.

Literal meaning of religion is faith, belief and monism. Religion, being a Latin word also means to bind together. Hence, it is clearly shown that it means the community binded together through some ^{common} faiths as ritual believes. It is united and for a specific community.

Liil Deen:

Deen is a collection of social orders, practices, faiths, believes and institutions. It is a complete code of life, revealed by Allah Almighty. It is not bound for a specific time as a specific kind of humans but equally beneficial for all mankind. Moreover, Islam

Discuss the differences part in detail by giving multiple subheadings

is not a religion but
a Deen.

"Truly, the religion with
Allah is Islam" (Quran)

(iii) Fundamentals of Islam

There are seven basic
things which are essential
for a muslim. They are also
spelled out in detail in
the "Iman-ul-Muqabil". They are:

- 1) To believe in Allah
- 2) Believe in His Messengers
- 3) Believe in His Books
- 4) Believe in His Angels
- 5) Believe in the life hereafter
- 6) Believe in predestination
- 7) Believe on the day of judgement

Allah states in the Quran:

'O, who ye believe, believe in
Allah and His Messenger and
in the Book He has given
to His messenger and in the

Books given to messengers before. Whoever disbelieves in Allah and His angels and His Books and His messengers and the Last Day has indeed gone far astray" (Quran)

→ Effect of fundamentals on individuals and society:

(i) Oneness of Allah:

All the fundamentals of Islam clearly states the oneness of Allah as the sole creator of this universe and the sustainer.

"There is no God but Allah" (Quran)

(ii) Belief in His Book:

Quran is the last book of Allah Almighty, revealed on the Prophet (S.A.W.)

It is for the humankind
and is the most authentic
and accurate in his form.

It is revealed by Allah

and its protection is
also taken by Him.

"We have revealed this
Guidance (Quran) and are
the protectors of it": (Quran)

(iii) Unity of Mankind:

Islam teaches
us that the creator of
all mankind and everything
in this universe is

Allah, all alone. He has no
companion and are his
servants who will all
return to him.

"Say, surely we all are
from Allah and we
will return to him" (Quran)

(iv) Equality and justice:

Islam teaches us to do justice and equality in our affairs. Power is only in the hands of Allah and only is capable of doing anything. A man is just his servant in this universe who has to obey his orders. Moreover, it is also an attribute of Allah to do justice and He likes the ones who do so.

"Blessed is He, in whose hand is the Kingdom and He has power over all things" (Quran)

(v) Forgiveness and Self-sacrifice:

Being human is a natural aspect to commit mistakes.

In Islam, after committing a sin or a mistake, if one

calls Allah to forgive him, Allah surely forgives him. The same thing is also expected by His creation. Humans should always sacrifice their ego and should forgive others.

"Do not lose hope in Allah's mercy, for Allah certainly forgives all sins" (Quran)

(vi) Believe in Qadear or Predestination:

In Islam is obligatory to believe that our destiny is written by Allah even before our birth. Our birth, rizq, marriage, success and death, all is already written. However, we, humans are left with with freewill to decide what we do and what we ask for. Anything bad that happens to us is just because of our own intentions and deeds. However this bad can be

prevented by seeking forgiveness and help from Allah.

"Everything good that happens to you is by Allah and anything evil that happens to you, is by yourself" (Quran)

Keep the description of a single heading brief and increase the number of arguments instead

Some of the prophets are tested by the Allah through different tests but they are not beyond the abilities of man. They are just a test to check the human intention and his relation with Allah.

"Allah does not burdens any soul more than his power" (Quran)

Another spot, Allah says:

'So, surely with hardship comes ease.'

Conclusion

Islam is a complete code

of life revealed by Allah. It covers every aspect and it can be followed by anybody at anytime. Following the teachings of Islam are not only beneficial in this world but also in the day of judgement and life hereafter.

Attempt and upload a single qs at a time. Work on the pointed mistakes and then attempt the next answer

Question # 2:-

Examine the spiritual, moral and social impacts of Islamic worship practices, such as Salah, Zakat and Hajj, on the Muslim community.

Answer:-

Introduction

"Islam has been built on five pillars: testifying that there is no God but Allah and Muhammed (S.A.W) is his last

Messenger, establishing the prayer,
 paying zakat and to
 perform Hajj and to
 fast in the month of
 Ramzan"

(Hadith)

Islam is based on five
 major pillars: Shahadah, Salah, Sawa, Zakat
 and Hajj. All these are made
 obligatory for every human
 Muslim. The concept of worship
 in Islam includes spiritual, financial,
 physical and thoughts. Each one
 of the following has its own
 impact on the community.

(1) Salah

Salah is an arabic word
 used for pray. It literally
 means to pray, to ask and
 to seek guidance from Allah.
 In Islam, five prayers are
 made obligatory at the different

times of a day. It is the second and the most important pillar of Islam. It is mentioned 83 times in Quran.

2 → Spiritual impact of Salah:

Salah is a connection or a conversation between Allah and His creation. Offering prayer gives peace to the body and the soul and it also develops a relation between Allah and man. Most importantly, it washes away the sins of man.

Prophet (P.B.U.H) was sitting one day with his companions. He asked his companions:

"If a river flows in front of a house a man takes bath from its water, five times a day. Then, will there be left any dust onto him?"

Companions replied: 'No'. Then prophet told them: "This is same with the Salah. If a man offers five times a day Allah washes away all his sins."

2 → Moral impact of Salah:

Salah makes a man morally perfect. Lowering head in front of creator raises his moral values and his Iman (Faith). Salah is also a source of purification of the soul and the protection against evil. Salah makes a man to think that his God is watching you and so, he should keep away from the immoral deeds. It affirms the belief of a man on the Quran's ayat, which says: "He (Allah) is alone all hearing, all seeing"

2 → Social impacts of Salah:

Salah is not only a relationship between Allah and his creation but it also develops a relationship between Muslims. For instance, offering five times a day in a mosque, develops a healthy and religious relationship among Muslims. Moreover, while offering prayer, everyone follows the same order, no one is dominated on the basis of color, creed or race. Everyone bows head at the same time and for the sake of Allah's pleasure. In this regard, it also helps in eradicating the pride and ego from a person's personality.

"Offering Salah in congregation is 27 times more rewarding than offering Salah alone"

(Hadith)

Zakat

Literal meaning of Zakat is "purification". In Islam, zakat refers to the purification of wealth. It is made obligatory on every muslim who has a specific amount of wealth. The amount is 2.5% of the total wealth, which is to be given. It is the ~~3rd~~ third pillar and the most important one ^{as it is} to help others.

→ Spiritual impact of zakat:

Zakat develops a sense of responsibility on the believers. It reminds the believers that their wealth is a trust from God and should be used for the well-being of others. This in turn, will bless them with Allah's

happiness and rewards. Similarly, a true believer holds strong believe that through charity and Zakat, his wealth becomes purified and never ^{becomes} less, but it always increases. As Allah states in Quran:

Those who spend their wealth by day and night, secretly and openly, have their reward with their Lord, on them shall come no fear nor shall they grieve."

➔ Moral impact of Zakat:

Zakat promotes the sense of generosity in humans. It makes them realize that their wealth is not beneficial for them alone but can also be used by and for others for their betterment. It also raises that the order of Allah is more

worthy than his wealth.
In the same way, Zakat
reduces the greed of a
man when he sees the
world outside who are in
need of it.

“Zakat is a right that
poor have upon the rich”
(Hadith)

→ Social impacts of Zakat:

Islam, undoubtedly has the
most accurate and the
helping financial system in
the world. A person having
52.5 tola ^{silver} ~~gold~~ or 7.5 tola
of gold is bound to
give 2.5% of his total
wealth to the needy
people. This amount seems
very little as compared
to the other financial system,
but this 2.5% could change
the social inequalities if done

Giving zakat means that the wealth is circulating and it is not held by a single person. This will help the people to stop illegal and un-Islamic ways to earn their livelihood. It provides them a secure and halal mean of finance. Zakat can be contribute to curb corruption, injustice, poverty and also helps in the economic growth and social cohesion.

"Establish Saleh and give zakat, and whatever good you put forward for yourself, - you find it with Allah." (Quran)

(3) Hajj

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It takes place once

in every year in the month of Dhul Hijjah. It is obligatory and required to perform at least once in lifetime on the people who can financially afford it.

2 → Spiritual impact of Hajj

Hajj is a test of patience and temperament, and can be spiritually, emotionally, and physically challenging. It gives an opportunity to walk on the footsteps of Prophets.

It is a purpose of fulfilling our spiritual duties to Allah and showing our submission to Him. It offers a chance to wipe out all the sins of a man and increases his Taqwa.

Allah states in Quran:

“Whoever makes Hajj to

the house or to perform Umrah, there is no blame upon him for walking ^{between} them. And whoever volunteers good, then indeed, Allah is appreciative and all knowing" (Quran)

2 → Moral impact of Hajji:

Every year around millions of people gather to perform Hajj. Everyone is from different country and nation and bearing a different social status but they are bound to cover their bodies with a similar piece of cloth and do the same tasks. This all raises a sense of equality, humility, patience and compassion. Moreover, it also develops tolerance and forgiveness in people.

2 → Social impact of Hajji:-

Hajj is an event

in which different type of people are present and perform the rituals. They are tightly held by the bond of brotherhood and humanity by Islam. It also provides a platform for the unity of Muslim Ummah in which they learn different things and manners. Similarly, the peaceful coexistence of the Muslim Ummah before Allah shows that the whole Ummah is united and it also delivers a sense of equality.

Conclusion

Every worship practice in Islam has its own spiritual, moral and social impact and is equally beneficial for all. Islam being a universal deen provides the people with an opportunity to make their

Lord happy and to seek forgiveness. Moreover, Allah has made the whole life of a muslim as Ubadah if he spent it according to ways Allah has described. And nothing in this world is hidden from Him.

"And He knows, what's
inside every heart"
(Quran)