

Explain the strategies employed by the Prophet (SAW) in his military expeditions.

Ans:-

A-

## INTRODUCTION

The military strategies employed by the prophet Muhammad (SAW) were characterized by wisdom, ethics, and effective tactics that ensured minimal bloodshed while achieving the goal of protecting the Muslim community. The guiding principle was always to uphold justice and mercy, as emphasized in the Quran,

"And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors." (Quran 2:190)

This verse reflects the defensive nature of prophet Muhammad (SAW) military expeditions and the emphasis on restraint.

## B. STRATEGIES EMPLOYED

### BY THE PROPHET IN HIS

### MILITARY EXPEDITIONS

#### 1. DEFENSIVE WARFARE

The Prophet (SAW) primarily engaged in defensive battles. His expeditions were focused on protecting the Muslim community from aggression. The Battle of Badr, for instance, was a response to an attack from the Quraysh. The prophet emphasized defense as a necessity, and this approach is illustrated in the Quran.

"Permission (to fight) has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged." (22:39)

## 2. STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

The Prophet (SAW) formed alliances to strengthen the Muslim Community and prevent enemy attacks. The Treaty of Hudaibiyah with the Quraysh is a prime example of a non-military strategy that resulted in peaceful co-existence, allowing Muslims time for religious propagation.

## 3. SURPRISE TACTICS

The Prophet (SAW) often employed the element of surprise to reduce casualties and achieve swift victory. During the conquest of Makkah, he moved quickly and secretly, catching the enemy off guard, which led to minimal bloodshed and peaceful surrender.

## 4. DIPLOMACY BEFORE COMBAT

Before engaging in battles,

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The Prophet (SAW) would often attempt peaceful negotiations. During the battles preparations for **Bani Qurayzah**, he attempted to persuade them to surrender peacefully. This approach aligns with his message of minimizing conflict whenever possible.

## 5. MINIMIZING HARM TO NON-COMBATANTS

The prophet (SAW) was strict in his commands to avoid harming non-combatants, women, children, and the elderly. He instructed his army:

“Do not kill any child, any woman, or any elder or sick person.”

## 6. USE OF INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE

The prophet (SAW) utilized intelligence effectively, sending scouts

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to gather information about enemy movements. Before the battle of Badr, he sent out scouts to ascertain the position of Quraysh forces, demonstrating his reliance on accurate information for strategic decisions.

## 7. MORAL CONDUCT IN WAR

The Prophet (SAW) insisted on maintaining high moral standards, including respect for prisoners of war. After the Battle of Badr, captives were treated with kindness, setting a precedent for humane treatment of prisoners.

"And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive." (76:8)

## 8. EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND DELEGATION

The Prophet (SAW) demonstrated exceptional leadership by delegating

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authority and empowering his commanders. In several expeditions, he appointed capable leaders, such as during the expedition of Mu'tah, where Zayd Ibn Harithah was appointed as the commander.

### 9. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

The Prophet (SAW) sometimes employed psychological tactics to weaken the enemy's resolve. For instance, during the battle of Aghab (Trench), the Muslims dug a trench, a novel tactic that demoralized the confederate forces and deterred their advance.

### 10. AVOIDING UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION

The Prophet (SAW) preferred to avoid battles unless absolutely necessary. His decision to avoid

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confrontation at Hudaibiyyah resulted in a peace treaty that allowed the Muslims to grow stronger without warfare.

## C. CONCLUSION

The Prophet (SAW)'s military strategies were marked by a commitment to justice, minimal violence, and high moral conduct. His emphasis on diplomacy, alliances, intelligence, and ethical conduct in warfare is reflected in his saying:

"The strong man is not the one who is good at wrestling, but the strong man is the one who controls himself in a fit of rage." (Bukh<sup>ri</sup> Sahih<sup>vi</sup>)

These strategies not only protected the Muslim community but also set an enduring standard for ethical warfare, emphasizing compassion, mercy,

and the preservation of life wherever possible.

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## Test Series

Q<sup>1</sup>: Define the concept of Islam and explain how it is distinguished from other contemporary religions.

Ans:-

A-

### INTRODUCTION

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and approved for you Islam as religion." (5:3)

Islam is more than just a religion; it is complete way of life that governs every aspect of human existence, from individual spiritual needs to societal obligations.

### B- CONCEPT OF ISLAM

#### 1. SUBMISSION TO WILL OF ALLAH

Islam means submission of Allah's

will. The term itself derives from the root word, Salam, meaning peace.

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam." (3:19)

## 2. A COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE

Islam is a comprehensive system that covers every aspect of life. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said,

"Islam is to bear witness that there (is) no god but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger, to establish prayer, to give zakat, to fast during Ramadan and to perform pilgrimage." (Sahih Muslim)

## 3. MONOTHEISM AND PROPHETHOOD

Islam is fundamentally based on Tawhid (Oneness of God) and belief in prophethood.

"Say, He is Allah (who is) one."

(6:102:1) SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF ALLAH

#### 4. RELIGION OF PEACE

Islam advocates for peace and harmony. The word Islam comes from salam, meaning peace, and the prophet hood (PBUH) stated,

"Spread peace, feed the hungry, and pray while people sleep, and you will enter paradise in peace."

#### 5. GUIDANCE FOR MANKIND

Islam is considered the final and universal guidance for mankind.

"And we have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for the worlds." (21:107)

#### C- HOW ISLAM IS DISTIN-

-GUISHED FROM OTHER

# CONTEMPORARY RELIGION

## 1. FINALITY OF PROPHETHOOD

Islam considers Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the last messenger.

"Muhammad is not the father of any one of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets." (33:40)

This distinguishes it from Judaism and Christianity, which awaits future prophets.

## 2. 2. COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL SYSTEM (SHARIAH)

Islam provides a complete legal framework (Shariah) governing personal and public life. Unlike most religions, it has a structured legal system that encompasses governance, finance, ethics, and social conduct.

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"We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things." (16:89)

### 3. INCLUSIVITY AND UNIVERSALITY

Islam addresses all of humanity regardless of race and background.

"O mankind, we created you from a single (pair) male and a female and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may know one another" (49:13)

Unlike religions that maybe region-specific or ethnocentric, Islam is universal.

### 4. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

Islam has a strong emphasis on social justice, welfare, and economic equity. Zakat (charitable giving) is a pillar ensuring wealth distribution, which contrast with many contemporary faiths that do not mandate such systems.

"And establish prayer and give Zakat." (2:110)

## 5. EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Islam promotes equality among all individuals, transcending caste, race, or social status. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) declared,

"All humans are equal like the teeth of a comb."

The egalitarian principle contrasts with some faiths where social hierarchy is deeply embedded.

## 6. HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SPIRITUALITY AND MATERIAL LIFE

Islam provides a balance between spirituality and worldly responsibilities.

"Seeks the life to come by means of what Allah granted you, but do not neglect your rightful share in this world."

(2:8:77)

This balance is different from ascetic or purely spiritual paths in some other religions.

## 7. EMPHASIS ON KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE

Islam strongly encourages the pursuit of knowledge, which was a key driver behind the Islamic golden age. "Read in the name of your Lord who created." (96:1)

This is distinct from other religions that may have had tensions between science and faith.

## 8. PRACTICAL APPROACH TO WORSHIP

Islamic rituals are not confined to specific days or places. The daily prayers, fasting during Ramadan, and other acts of worship are integrated into everyday life, ensuring continuous spiritual connection, unlike religions with restricted worship practices.

## 9. EQUALITY OF PROPHETS

Islam recognizes all previous

prophets, unlike some faiths that reject later prophets.

"Say, we believe in Allah and in what was revealed to us and what was to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the descendants." (2:136)

## 0- CONCLUSION

Islam is a unique religion that not only focuses on spirituality but also provides a comprehensive guide to personal and societal life. Its emphasis on monotheism, social justice, equality, and the balance between worldly and spiritual life distinguishes it from contemporary religions. Rooted in divine guidance, Islam offers a path towards peace, justice, and fulfillment for all of humanity.