

Assignment #01

Islamic Studies.

Question no:01

What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Islam: In Arabic, Islam literally means "submission", but in religious context when this term is used it means Submission to Allah Alone. Accordingly, a muslim is one who submits to the divine injunctions and does not deviate from them.

Salient features of Islam.

→ Tawhid

Islam is a Monotheistic religion. Islam is a unique religion that follows the concept of tawhid, where all people who follow the religion has to accept the oneness of God. Tawhid is 1st part of Kalima means showing that it is first part of religion

لا اله الا الله

There is no God but Allah

→ Allah alone is the master of the world and there is no one else except him.

In Surah Ikhlas, Allah says

Say, He is Allah, [who is] one, Allah, the Eternal Refuge

He neither begets nor is born

nor is there to him any equivalent

112: 1-4

Tawhid is a core pillar of Islam. Because of tawhid we have all systems, we have faith, worship, cultures basically all aspects of life revolve around tawhid.

According to a hadith

Tawhid is the 1st chapter of Islamic syllabus

(Sirahtun Nabi by Allama shibli Noumani)

Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) said

Islam is like a fort and the gate of

this fort is tawhid

2- Propnethood

Propnethood (Nabuwwa) is to believe in the finality of Propnethood. It is the second part of kalma.

محمد رسول الله

"And Hazrat Muhammad is prophet of Allah";

If a person does not believe in finality of Propnethood, he/she is not considered as a muslim.

In Quran Allah says:

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but the messenger of Allah & the seal of prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things

33:40

Prophet Muhammad PBUH is an educator

He taught his ummah how to live a life according to principles of Islam.

Prophet Muhammad PBUH is a source of law

Allah says in Quran

NOY does he speaks of his own whims

It is only a revelation send down to him

53:3-A

Q.

Has Prophet Muhammad PBUH ~~was~~ is an
~~excellent~~ excellent example in every aspect
 of human life. In Quran Allah
 says:

Indeed in the messenger of Allah
 you have an excellent example for
 whoever has hope in Allah & the
 Last day & remembers Allah often

33: 21

3) Complete Code of life

Islam is the only religion that gives
 us a complete code of life because it guides
 us in every aspect of life. It provides
 guidance in individual life like
 when someone is born, Azan & Adhan is
 called in the ear of newborn - Then Islam
 tells us about upbringing of the child
 (A mother teach her children in early
 age and later mosques for his moral
 upbringing) - Islam teach us character
 building like no pride in one self,
 no envy for others) - Islam tells us
 about livelihood, it tells us one should

not earn haram money, Earning of a person should be halal. In Quran Allah says we have indeed established you on earth and provided you with means of livelihood, yet you seldom give any thanks 7:10

- It tells about the things to do after the person's death (Nama2-e-jana2a, Ablution, Bury the deceased into Grave)

All of above points only tells us about

how Islam is a complex code for an

individual but Islam also ^{gives} tells us about

collective life's guidance; Islam tells us

to be nice with our neighbours - It gives

us a social system (how to life in a

Society - It gives us political systems:

Financial System - System of justice -

Administrative System - tells us about

Global Affairs. All things show that Islam

is a complex code of life

† Dignity to Mankind

Islam is a religion that teaches us about

the fact that every person is valuable &

deserve respect. This Dignity is given by Allah to every mankind no matter their race, color, or social status. Allah did not make anyone his caliph but only humans. In Quran Allah says:

Remember when your Lord said to angels "I am going to place a successive human authority on Earth". They asked "will you place in it someone who will spread corruption there and shed blood while we glorify Your praises and proclaim your holiness?" Allah responded "I know what you do not know"

2:30

Allah gave his rights in the hands of humans. As death is controlled by authority of Allah but judges give death sentence to culprits; shows somehow Allah has given his authority to humans. Islam encourages the protection of human life, honor, and property & forbids actions that harm or insult people. The Prophet (PBUH) also taught that everyone should

be treated fairly, including women, children, and even those who are in difficult situation like prisoners.

In Qur'an Allah says:

Indeed, we created humans in best form

95:4

In Qur'an Allah talks about dignity of

humans in several places. One important

verse is

we have honored the children of Adam, provided

them with transport on land & sea, given

them good things for their sustenance, and

~~never~~ favored them above many of those

we have created.

17:70

5 Islam promotes humanity

The world nowadays is so leaned towards

the fact that "Humanity comes first".

Islam strongly promotes concept of humanity

which means showing kindness, compassion,

and care to all people. Allah says

in Islam that Muslims should be

characterful.

Prophet (PBUH) said:

Best among you is ^{one} who is best in

Character.

One of key principles in Islam is mercy.

Allah is described as most merciful and

Muslims are encouraged to reflect this

mercy in their own actions. Islam teaches

us that every person has a duty to contribute

to the community & to support those who

are less fortunate. In Allah's Qur'an

says

Woe to every backbiter, slenderer,

who ~~am~~ gathers wealth greedily and

keeps counting it over and over

104: 1-2

Abdul Sattar Echi, Chhpa and many

other foundations were established only

for welfare of humans. All social work

has a base of humanity.

In Surah Hijra (Aq: 1-~~15~~¹⁴) Allah

ordered Muslims to do certain things

the summary of which is:

→ Allah asked Muslims to not do some any

problem by the means Allah has not

provided you

- To not raise your voice

→ people should have ^{Good} manners

→ Mocking is forbidden

→ Insulting other is forbidden

→ calling other people by wrongful nicknames is forbidden

→ suspicion is a sin, Avoid it

→ Do not spy

→ Do not believe in any news until verified

→ Recognize that any favor and blessing comes from Allah.

→ If two groups fight, make peace b/w them

→ Be just

→ Fear Allah

→ Do not backbite each other

→ All humans are created from a male and female, and are made into nations and tribes to know each other, but the most honorable in the sight of Allah is the most pious

→ Faith should be in heart

In the light of above order given by Allah in Quran we sure believe that Islam promotes humanity.

6 Justice and Equality

In Islam every human is equal and should be treated justly. This principle means that every person, regardless of their background or status, has inherent dignity and deserve fair treatment.

Prophet (PBUH) in his Khutba Hijjatul Wida said

All mankind is from Adam & Eve. An Arab has no superiority over an Ajam non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white does not have any superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; none have superiority over another except by piety & good actions.

Islam has taught us that no one is better than another based on race, ethnicity and social status. What truly

matter is a person's character and actions.

A case of stealing was reported to Prophet (PBUH) from a wealthy Arab family's woman stole something. The Prophet gave her punishment regardless of her social status and said "if my daughter Fatima will do such action, she will get same punishment". This shows Islam serves justice and every human is treated equally. This focus on justice & equality helps ensure that everyone is respected and their rights are protected.

7 Brotherhood and Community (Ummah)

Brotherhood and community (Ummah) are central concepts in Islam. The idea of Ummah emphasizes unity, mutual support, and a sense of belonging among Muslims across the world, regardless of their race, nationality or social status. Brotherhood and Community concept is based that all

Muslims are a part of one big family under the light and faith of Islam. After migration from ~~Makkah~~ to

In Quran Allah says:

Indeed, the believers are brothers. So make settlement between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy.

(49:10)

After migration from Makkah to Madina

The people who migrated had no money, food or shelter. The Ansari people of Madina welcomed them with open arms, gave them food, shelter, asked them to live in their homes, even gave them their properties. This is the best example of brotherhood ever seen.

Brotherhood in Islam extends to providing support, both rationally and emotionally. This includes act of charity, helping in the times of need, and being there for each other in the difficult times,

Prophet (PBUH) said:

Muslim Ummah is like one body, if the eye is sore the whole body aches, and if the head aches, the whole body aches
(Sahih Muslim)

8. Charity

Charity, known as "Sadaqah" and "Zakat", is a fundamental aspect of faith. It's taught in Islam that charity is important. It involves giving to those in need and sharing wealth as an act of kindness. Charity is not all about financial aid; it also includes acts of kindness, offering help, or even a smile. It is a kind of duty of Muslims to help others and reduce inequality in society.

Prophet (PBUH) ~~says~~ said:

Charity does not decrease wealth. No one forgives another except that Allah increases his honor, and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises his status
(Sahih Muslim)

charity is considered as a continuous reward (Sadaqah Jariyah), it benefits others even after the giver has passed away, such as building a well, a school, or planting trees. This type of charity continues to earn rewards for giver as long as the benefits persist.

When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things:

Sadaqah Jariyah (a continuous charity),
 knowledge that is beneficial, or a virtuous
 descendant who prays for him
 (Sahih Muslim)

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam and it is obligatory for all muslims. It requires giving a fixed portion, usually 2.5% of one's accumulated wealth each year to those in need.

In Quran Allah says:

And establish prayer and give zakat,
 and whatever good you put forward for yourself

9. Moral and ethical code

Islam is a religion that provides a comprehensive moral and ethical framework that guides behaviour of muslim in every aspect of life. The framework of moral and ethical code is derived from the Holy Quran, the sayings and actions of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) known as sunnah, and Hadith as well. The moral and ethical code in Islam is designed to promote justice, compassion, honesty, and integrity in personal conduct, social interactions and dealing with others.

Honesty is a fundamental value in Islam. Muslims are always encouraged to speak truth, fulfill their promises, and avoid lying or deceit in any form. Allah says in Quran:

O, you ^{who} have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true.

(9:119)

Islam emphasize compassion, kindness, and mercy towards others. Muslims are

encouraged to be kind and gentle with everyone, including animals and environment.

According to a Hadith

The merciful will be shown mercy by Ar-Rahman. Be merciful on the Earth, and you will be shown mercy from who is above the Earth heavens.

Humility is highly valued in Islam, Muslims are encouraged to avoid arrogance & pride and to remain humble in their interactions with each other.

▲ In a hadith PBUH said

He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter Paradise.

A man asked, "What about a person who likes to wear beautiful clothes & shoes?"

The prophet said replied, "Allah is beautiful & loves beauty. Pride means rejecting the truth and looking down on people."

10. Accountability and Responsibility in Islam

An essential aspect of Islamic teaching is accountability and also responsibility. These things guide Muslims across the globe to lead their lives with consciousness and integrity. These concepts emphasize that every action, every word uttered from one's mouth, and every decision a person takes has consequences. An individual would be accountable by Allah both in this life and the hereafter. The framework of accountability & responsibility in Islam helps maintain justice, encourages ethical behaviour & fosters a sense of personal & communal duty.

In Quran Allah says:

So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and who ^{ever} does an atom's ^{weight} ~~worth~~ of evil will see it.

(99: 7-8)

Islam teaches us that individuals are responsible for their own actions and cannot

blame. Others for their choices. Each person will be judged based on their deeds, intentions, and efforts. In Quran

Allah says:

Every soul will be held in pledge for its deeds

(74:38)

Beyond personal accountability & responsibility Islam also emphasize the importance of social responsibility. This include fair in business dealing & fulfilling obligations to family & society, and working towards the common good.

Allah's Messenger (PBUH) said "surely! Everyone of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges: The ruler of the people is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; a man is the guardian of his family (household) and is responsible for his subjects; a woman is the guardian of her husband's home & of his children & is responsible for them; and the slave of a man is a

guardian of his master's property & is responsible for it. Surely, everyone of you is a guardian & responsible for his charges

In Islam after individual and social accountability and responsibility, Leaders are particularly held accountable for their actions and decisions. They are expected to lead with justice, honesty and humility, serving as examples for others. Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab the ^{second} ~~fourth~~ caliph of Islam said

If a dog dies of hunger on the banks of the River Nile, I fear Allah will hold me accountable for it on the day of judgment

It shows Accountability and responsibility are central to Islamic teachings, guiding Muslims to lead lives of integrity, justice, and mindfulness. It reflects true values of Islam.