

Q:1 What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Ans Islam is an arabic word. Islam means to achieve peace, peace with God, and peace with the creation of God. Islam means to submit one's will to the will of Allah.

Islam means submission of desires to the will of Allah.

In Surah Kafiroon:

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ

"For you is your religion, and for me is my religion."

Islam is a monotheistic religion that teaches us that there is only one divine being, one supreme creator of the universe. Islam is a universal religion that can be practiced by anyone at any time and in every place.

In Hadis - Jibrael Holy prophet (PBUH) said, Islam is to testify there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, to establish the prayer, to pay the zakat, to fast the month of Ramadan, and make pilgrimage to the House if you have the means to do so.

Islam is the combination of rights of Allah and rights of people.

Islam is for entire mankind.  
It's an ideal system of living for all of mankind.

In Surah Baqarah:

ثم بيشركم من بعد موتكم  
تنتصرون.

Then We revived you after your death,  
so that you might be thankful.

Islam is a complete, holistic way of living that covers every aspect of life. Islam teaches mankind on how to behave in every area of life, individuals, social, material, moral, ethical, cultural, political and global.

Its purpose to live a good life, in obedience to the laws of Allah, and Islam teaches to respect your parents, your elders, your neighbours. It guides us how to speak.

It is not limited to a specific time.

It is not confined to a specific geography and it is not restricted to a specific ethnicity.

Islam was not thought up by its followers or applied by other people, but was revealed by Almighty Allah.

Allah is the One and Allah brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers not knowing anything and He gave you

the senses of hearing, seeing and comprehending.

## Salient Features of Islam.

1. Tauheed: Tauheed mean "Oneness of God".  
The belief in the oneness of Allah Almighty is one of the core beliefs of Muslims.  
Tauheed is the first part of Shahada.  
لا اله الا الله

There is none worthy of worship except Allah.

Tauheed helps in the mature character-building of a person.

It liberates human society and gives the concept of equality.

In Surah Ikhlas:

قل هو الله احد

"He is Allah - One and indivisible".

الله لا اله الا هو

Allah is the sustainer needed by all

لا يلد ولم يولد

He has never had offspring, nor was He born.

ولم يكن له كفوا احد

And there is none comparable to Him.

## 2. Prophe thood:-

Being a muslim is to have belief in the Oneness of Allah Almighty and the prophe thood of the Last prophe t Muhammad (P.B.U.H).

Allah Almighty says about the finality of prophe thood in Surah Ahzab:

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ ابْنًا لِأَيِّ مَنِةٍ مِنَ الرِّبَالِ وَلَا رَسُولًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ  
وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

Mohammad (PBUH) is not the of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the prophets (ending the chain of the Prophets) and Allah is the Perfect knower of everything.

The Holy Prophe t (PBUH) came after all prophe ts and Messengers.

The order of prophe thood that began with prophe t Adam ended with Prophe t Mohammad (PBUH). Allah Limited the guidance and prophe thood of the previous prophe ts to a specific area or country. Their guidance and message was not universal. But the guidance of Prophe t Mohammad (PBUH) is universal and refers to the entire world.

→ Way of life: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, Love for humanity what you love for yourself. He said Do not be rude in speech. and be good to others. Forgive others for their mistakes. He established a mosque which was used not only for the purpose of prayer but also as a centre of learning.

In Surah An-Najm:

ولا يطق عن الهوى .  
Nor does he speak of his own whims.

ان هو الا نوحى اليه .  
It is only a revelation sent down to him.

Role Model:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was known for his compassion and mercy towards all living beings. He treated people with kindness, regardless of their social status or beliefs.

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله اسوة حسنة لمن كان يرجوا الله واليوم الآخر وذكر الله كثيرا .

Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often.

3. Islam is a complete code of life:  
 Islam is the religion of truth. It is the embodiment of the code of life. It guides to manage all activities of life. Resources to maintain life and fulfill the material needs of the individual and society.  
 The Lord of the universe has provided for both of these in full measure. He provided nature with all kinds of resources, which lie at the disposal of man.

\* Individual life:  
 Islam believes in personal responsibility. We are responsible for our acts, and the consequences of our actions cannot be transferred to someone else. In other words that every man is responsible for his actions.

\* Birth:  
 Birth is regarded as a gift bestowed by Allah. In the Quran, And it is God who brought you forth, knowing nothing from your mothers wombs.

\* Uprising of children:-  
 Islam has provided some wonderful guidance for parent in order to raise our children.  
 "play with them for the first seven years

of their life. then teach them for the next seven years, then advise them for the next seven years (and after that):

#### \* Character building:

In Islam, character building is a fundamental aspect of one's faith and a key component of leading a virtuous life. It is the process of developing qualities such as honesty, kindness, compassion, generosity and humility.

#### \* Education:

Prophet said, Seeking knowledge is necessary for human.

Education in Islam is to confirm faith, integrate faith and knowledge, and prepare Muslims for useful roles in society.

#### \* Livelihood:

Livelihood is considered a part of mankind's right of life.

#### \* Family Life:

Family is a human social group whose members are bound together by the bond of blood ties and marital relationship and nothing else. The Islamic code of life teaches us about the fulfilment of their rights and we should fulfil all rights respecting to each individual.

→ Justice: Justice is an important principle of life because when injustice overrule, corruption is the result which can vanish everything.

Allah advised Muslims to do justice correctly in all aspects of life.

→ Forgiveness:

Allah loves those who forgive others mistakes. He asked people to forgive others if they want to be loved by Allah Almighty.

We have so many examples of forgiveness from the life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He always forgave his enemies.

→ Social System:

An Islamic society is the society whose members have "Iman" "faith" in Islam, apply its laws in their life and performing religious duties and abstaining from doing what is unlawful.

4. Dignity to mankind:- The right of every human life to be valued unconditionally.

→ Caliph: An Islamic form of government in which political and religious leadership is united, and the head of state. (the Caliph) is a successor to the Prophet Muhammad. Include Khilafa, Khulafa, Khalifat.



\* Intention:- Intention is the pillar of worship. If an action is done without intention or has an ungodly intention behind it, it will be invalid.

In Surah Baqra:

Have they not reflected upon their own being? Allah only created the heavens and the earth and everything in between for a purpose and an appointed term. Yet most people are truly in denial of the meeting with their Lord.

\* Advocacy:- In Islam, advocacy also holds great significance, aligning with the principles of justice, compassion and community welfare.

5. Islam promotes humanity:-

Islam promotes the values of respect, honesty, forgiveness, and kindness towards all people. Islam is a way of life that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a guidance to humanity, and it is a gift from Allah to guide us on the right path.

\* Human Rights:- Human rights in Islam are firmly rooted in the belief that God, and God alone is the Law Giver and the Source of all human rights.

→ Animal Rights: In Islam, the rights of animals are respected in both life and death. Animal bodies may never be used for malicious purposes.

→ Charity:

Giving Charity in Islam is so important. It is a means of helping others, no matter how small or what form of charity it is, it can have a big impact and help other people greatly.

→ Social work:

Social work is considered of high importance in Islam and Muslims should involve in serve the people regardless of their religion.

→ Characterful:

Islam encourages its followers to be kind and compassionate towards all beings, whether human or animal.

"The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith" (Sahih Muslim).

→ Environmental protection:

Islam has a rich tradition of highlighting the importance of environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. According to Islamic law, the basic elements of nature, land, water, fire, forest and light belong to all living things, not just human beings.