

CSS 2016: Define the meaning of prayer and its different categories. Also describe the spiritual, moral and social impacts of prayers. (20)
Day: _____ Date: _____

* Islamic Worships : Spiritual, Moral and Social Impact

① Salat (Prayer) and its impacts:

Introduction:

Islam declares the purpose of human existence as worship.

"I did not create jinn and humankind except to worship Me."

(Al-Dhariyat, 51:56)

Salah (prayer) is the second pillar of Islam and the most important act of worship after belief in Allah and his Messenger (SAW).

It is a practical demonstration of faith, a direct link between the Creator and His servant, and a complete training program for the human soul, mind and body.

Islam considers Salah not merely as a ritual movements, but as a comprehensive system for spiritual purification, moral discipline, and social unity.

The prophet (SAW) taught direct access to Allah, no intermediaries and a worship that is not confined to specific places.

"The whole earth has been made a masjid (place of prostration) and a means of purification for me." (Bukhari, 335)

Islam widens worship to every permissible act done with sincere intention (niyyah) for Allah's pleasure, eating, earning, family life.

② Meaning and Nature of Salah:

The word Salah in Arabic literally means "connection" or "link". In Islamic sense, it refers to the prescribed set of actions and recitations performed at fixed times of the day starting with "takbir" and ending with "Salam", performed in

humility before Allah. It is both a spiritual conversation with the Creator and a moral exercise for self-purification.

"And establish prayer for My remembrance." (Ta Ha, 20:14)

Importance of Salah in Quran and Hadith:

In Quran:

The Quran commands Salah more than 70 times, showing its pivotal role in a believer's life.

a. Purpose of human creation and worship: (Dhariyat, 51:56)

b. Command to Establish prayer and give charity:

"And establish prayer and give Zakat and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah sees what you do". (Baqarah, 2:110)

c. Fixed Duty:

"Indeed, prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed times".

(Al-Nisa, 4:103)

d. Moral shield:

"Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds." (Ankabut, 29:45)

e. Guard all prayers - especially A'sr:

"Observe the 5 obligatory prayers - especially the middle prayer..." (Baqarah, 2:238-239) ... including "...if you are in danger pray on foot or while riding..."

In Hadith:

a. First account on Qiyyamah:

"The first deed the servant will be called to account for on the Day of Resurrection is the prayer." (Tirmidhi, 413)

b. Boundary with disbelief:

"Between a man and a kafir is abandoning prayer." (Sahih Muslim, 182)

Different Types / Categories of Prayers:

a. By legal status:

- Farah (obligatory): 5 daily prayers, Juma, Janazza (farz kifayah).
- Wajib (essential): witr (in Hanafi school); other term witr as mu'akkadah.
- Sunnah (mu'akkadah / ghair mu'akkadah) ^{mu'akkadah - practiced by prophet on daily basis.}
- Nafil (voluntary) ^{ghair " - practiced on semi-regular basis.}

b. By Mode:

Individual vs. Congregational prayers. (x27 reward) (Bukhari, 645)
Special prayers: Khusuf (eclipses), Istisqa (rain),
Salat al-khauf (fear), Istikharah (seeking better choice).

Impacts of Salah on Human Life and Society:

• Spiritual Impacts:

① Physical purification → spiritual readiness:

Ablution cleanses 5 times a day.

"O you who believe, when you rise for prayer, wash your faces and your feet up to the ankles...." (Al-Maida, 5:6)

② closeness to Allah in Sujud:

"The closest a servant is to his Lord is while prostrating, so increase supplication." (Muslim, 482)

③ Continuous remembrance:

Salah is dhikr that renews your identity as 'abd (servant).

"Establish prayer for my remembrance" (Taha, 20:14)

④ Shield against sin:

Regular prayer pushes back lust and injustice.

"Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds." (Ankabut, 29:45)

⑤ Tawakkul and sab'r:

In stress, believers are told. "Seek help through patience and prayer". (Baqarah, 2:45, 2:153)

⑥ Sense of Duty and Obedience:

The discipline of fixed times habituates compliance with divine commands, building a life ready to obey Allah beyond prayer.

⑦ Formation of Taqwa:

Repetition, timings and Quran's recitation trains the conscience to feel watched by Allah.

• Moral Impacts:

① Punctuality:

Prayer teaches strict punctuality.

② Sense of Duty and responsibility:

Prayers drills an ethic of answerability ~~first~~ to Creator.

"And seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, it is a burden except for the humble". (Baqarah, 2:45)

③ Training in self-discipline:

Prayer instills self-discipline. It becomes obligatory on every individual at age of twelve. And this duty is not forgotten under any circumstances except when a woman is menstruating. Prayer remains due in travel, fear, or illness. Concessions exist, but the obligation remains.

④ Characterbuilding:

The Quran praises those constant upon their prayers. (Al-Munif 70:23). The Prophet said: "The most beloved deeds to Allah are those done consistently, even if small". (Bukhari, 6464)

⑤ Self-Control:

Pausing five times a day to face Allah trains willpower, curbing anger, greed and heedlessness.

⑥ Humility and Modesty:

Bowing and prostration engraves humility. Believers are "...humble with the believers but firm towards the disbelievers..." (Maidah, 5:54).

• Social Impacts:

① Social organization and discipline:

Prayer not only helps in building individual character but also in establishing community structure and spirit. The Azaan creates a living network with tightly synchronized behavior; no coercion, yet stronger than military drill. This is the bedrock of Islamic community structure.

② Mosques as Community centres:

When muslims meet together in Masjid for prayer, they feel and share one another's grief and suffering. It creates a channel for charity, mediation and service. Friday Khutbah educates and mobilizes.

③ Equality and Brotherhood:

All muslims stand in prayer before Allah without any distinction between rich and poor, white and black, arab and non-arab, leaders and workers. This daily practice of egalitarianism is a unique civic training.

④ Respect for rights of others:

Frequent and dignified contact in masajid grows adab, patience, and sensitivity to rights of neighbours, poor, and relatives.

⑤ Unity of Ummah:

Prayer unites men of different languages, ethnicities, colors and nationalities. The Azaan calls all; the prayer ~~unites~~ ^{brings} all.