

Introduction.

Ans 1) Islam comes from the Arabic word SLM or calm, "it means the act of resignation to God, it is the act of submitting oneself to God and His will. It is the true religion that was revealed to ~~all~~ prophets of Allah (swt) from Adam ^{PSBM} to Muhammad (PBUH).

A Muslim is any person who believes in Islam, the act of submission to Allah (swt) and the belief that this is the one true religion that was revealed defines the fundamental characteristics of a Muslim. Islam has ^{the sole} unique concept that is the final guidance of God (for Muslims being Allah (swt)) ~~and~~, ~~it is the~~ ^{first} message and final divine guidance of ^{from} God preached by the Holy Prophet ^(PBUH) being the last true messenger (rasool) of Allah (swt).

With the above 2 statements the fundamentals are defined but it is not that simple of an affair, with those 2 belief comes a series of agreements which are not mere say but requires ~~devotion~~ loyalty, sacrifice and firm devotion to ~~what is~~ Allah and ^{Prophet} Muhammad ^(PBUH) discuss this part in a bit more detail.

Characteristics of Islam.

(2)

Islam distinguishes from other institutions or religions based on its ~~numerous~~ unique ~~system~~ approach to any sphere of life whether at an individual level, ~~or~~ social and even political matters.

At an individual level it disciplines a Muslim to adhere to the boundaries laid out by Islam and hence by Allah through his ~~last~~ messenger Muhammad ^{SAW}. The Muslim belief ^{the} does not only limit to the ~~word~~ of Allah but also extends to the practice of our Holy Prophet ^{PRWH} ~~as~~ known formally ~~as~~ known as sunnah. The Sunnah of Prophet is the perfect most example of adherence to Allah. Hence making Muslims perfect ^{Institute} servants of Allah.

The ~~structure~~ of Islam that encompasses social & political affairs includes ^{rituals like} Charity (Zakat) and fasting in month of Ramadhan. Such rituals inculcate in Muslims the need to practice ~~of~~ gratitude & Dikhr (remembrance) to Allah that all greatness and belongs ~~to~~ to Him and verily all given is by His grace and is to be spent according to His will (Fi Sabillah). attempt by giving subheadings.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

Islam preaches equality, & and does not discriminate by colour, cast, creed or social status but only on the basis of piety (Taqwa), this characteristic alone differentiates it from any other religion, eg Hinduism that has caste system embedded in its religion. The rituals such as Hajj is a clear sign of how everyone is equal in front of Allah at the center of Islam. The rituals of social aspect such as Zakat is such a strong concept that there was once such a time that no beggar was seen to give zakat too, the concept of Zakat in Islam is just 1 out of its 5 pillars but so strong that it could eradicate poverty, it removes greed from a believer and inculcates selflessness, the remembrance that even his wealth belongs to Allah.

Prayer in Islam also awakes sense of social responsibility in man, organises human beings in a society and enjoining individual to subscribe to social good, it is a constant reminder 5 times a day to suppress your will and desires and proceed as Allah wills.

Such concepts when practiced creates a boundary distinguishing between Muslim (believer) and a non believer just like Islam and ~~the~~ other institutes.

Islam compared to both ~~old~~ ancient times and modern western world is a perfect unique system which could never be replicated, ~~and~~ as per it not only pointed out the atrocities but also laid foundations for here forward, back in dark ages when women were treated inferior and buried as a disgrace, Islam preached women rights and ~~decreased~~ ^{increased} women's status ~~to be~~ was to importance from mother's rights to wife's rights on husband. It totally changed financial world and concepts, it negated the ~~greedy~~ concept of interest based returns, inculcating in a Muslim ~~and~~ how material alongside soul also belonged to Allah.

The code of life completes with Islam. **105**
for all spheres of life and Hereafter, it finishes the confusion and strongly preaches oneness of God, developing unity among Muslim communities to proselytize and live a life free of (sins) guilt, It's message is complete for entire ~~mankind~~ and the ones to follow. **add more arguments.**

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.