

QUESTION NO. 2

Hajj is the finest institution of worship.

How do you define the term Hajj?

Discuss its simple procedures and benefits.

Introduction

Hajj is the fifth and last pillar of Islam. It means pilgrimage. It is an act of worship, symbolizes obedience, sacrifice, unity, and submission to Allah. It is obligatory upon every Muslim who physically and financially capable of journey. It is performed in the month of Zilhajj. The simple procedures of Hajj are Ihram, Tawaf, Sai, Animal sacrifice, and hair cutting.

There are several spiritual, social, moral, economic and community benefits of Hajj.

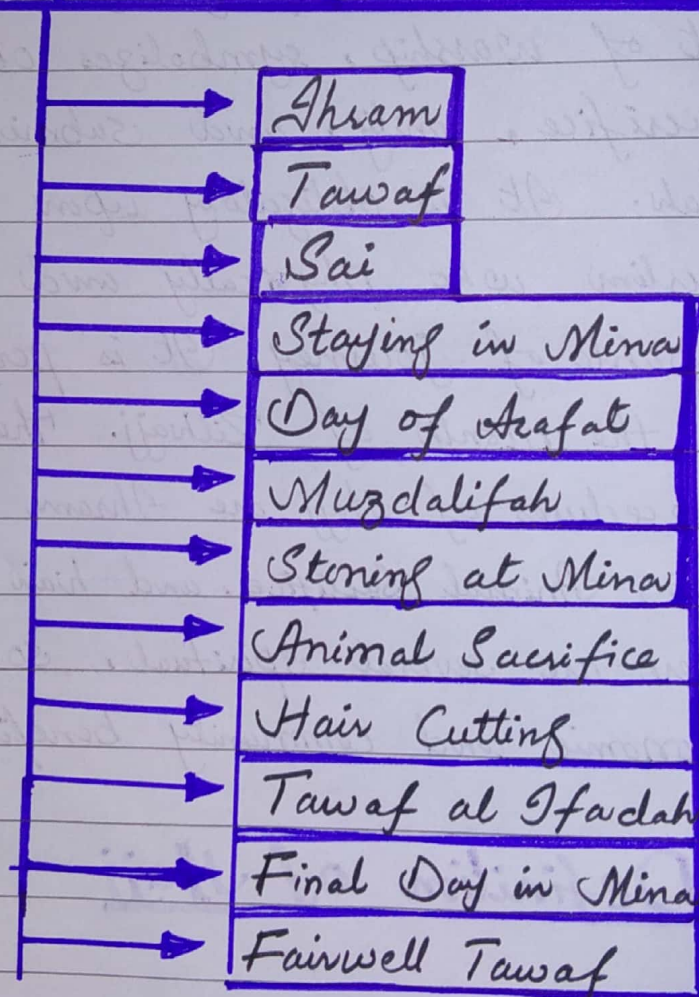
Definition of Hajj

The term Hajj means pilgrimage, pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Its literal meaning is to intend a journey.

Hajj is the pillar of Islam. It should be performed by every muslim once in

life time. It is performed in the month of Zilhajj. It is an act of worship in Islam which symbolizes obediences, sacrifice, unity and submission to Allah. It creates brotherhood, equality and global identity of Muslims.

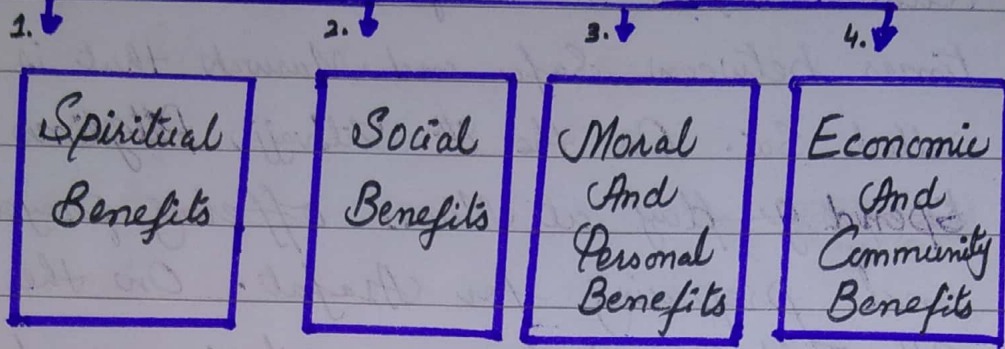
Simple Procedures Of Hajj



Leaving home the pilgrims have to wear Shram (a dress of two white pieces of cloth) at Meezgat (a place near Mecca). Reaching Mecca / Makkah they

will make Tawaf seven times round the Kaaba. After that they will run seven times between Safa and Marwah that is called Sai. On the 8th Zilhajj, Pilgrims spend ~~9~~ day at Mina, offering prayers, and preparing for Arafat. On the 9th Zilhajj, before noon pilgrims reach at Arafat and listening^{to} Sermon. After sunset pilgrims go to Muzdalifah, where they offer Maghrib and Isha prayer and ~~stay~~ spend night there. After that pilgrims throw stones at Jamarat al Azybah, symbolizing the rejection of Satan. Then they sacrifice animal, remembering the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S). After sacrifice, men cut their hair, women cut small portion of hair. Then perform another Tawaf around the Kaaba, completing rites of Hajj. Pilgrims throw stones at three pillars for two to three days on 11th and 12th or 13th Zilhajj. In the last pilgrims perform farewell Tawaf around the Kaaba (Tawaf ul Wada).

Benefits of Hajj



1. Spiritual Benefits

- Forgiveness of sins: Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said, a person return from Hajj as pure as newborn.
- Teaches humility and self-discipline.
- Strengthening faith and build strong connection with Allah.

2. Social Benefits

- Encourages global muslim identity.
- Creates ^{encourages} brotherhood, equality, and unity.
- Promotes unity of the muslim ummah, as millions gather regardless of race, language or nationality.

3. Moral And Personal Benefits

- Removes feeling of pride.
- Encourages good behaviour and strong moral values.
- Builds character, self-control, and gratitude.

4. Economic And Community Benefits

- Encourages charity and helping poor and needy through sacrifice.
- Promotes economic activity in the region.

Conclusion

Hajj is the greatest act of worship in Islam. It reminds Muslims the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S). It encourages brotherhood, equality, and unity of Muslims. It strengthens faith and connects with Allah. It is the duty of every muslim to perform Hajj once in a lifetime who are Physically and financially fit.