

Q) What is Islam. Elaborate salient features of Islam.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The meaning of Islam is submission to Allah. It is a complete code of life. There are different concepts of Islam which include the theoretical and practical concepts. Understanding Islam is essential for promoting peace, justice and co-existence in the modern world. There are several salient features of Islam which include its simplicity and rationalism, permanence of religion and its universality. Moreover, Islam provides a balance between relationship between individual and society. In addition to it Islam provides hope and trust in Allah.

2. LITERAL AND CONCEPTUAL MEANING OF ISLAM:

The literal and conceptual meaning of Islam is as follows.

2.1 LITERAL MEANING OF ISLAM:

Islam is derived from the Arabic word "slm" which means to surrender, submit or yield. It means to resign one's self to the will of God. Moreover, according to Sayed Ameer Ali's book the spirit of Islam, "Islam means peace."

2.2 CONCEPTUAL MEANING OF ISLAM:

The conceptual meaning of Islam goes beyond its literal meaning. The whole concept of Islam rests on the understanding that Allah is sovereign and is the only one. He created the universe and the mankind. Humans are sent on this earth to surrender to

Allah, follow his guidance and worship him. There is no religion accepted in the eyes of Allah other than Islam. The believe of Muslims is on Tauheed (Oneness of Allah) which states that:

There is no god but Allah
and Muhammad (S.A.W) is
the messenger of Allah.

Therefore as per the Kalima there is only one god and the believers of this religion are called Muslims, while the religion is called Islam. As Allah mentioned in Quran:

Indeed, the religion in the sight
of Allah is Islam

- Surah Aal-e-Imran
Ayat 19.

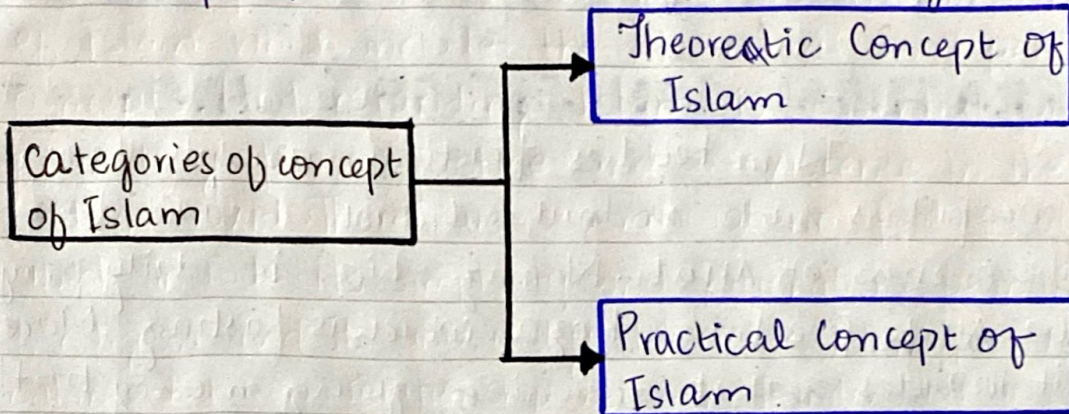
3. IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING ISLAM IN THE MODERN WORLD:

Understanding Islam in today's modern world is necessary as it promotes peace, counter stereotypes and encourage respectful dialogue. As a major world religion Islam influences billions of people around the world. For instance, Islam shapes politics, cultures and ethics. Moreover, Islam provides a sense of living to the individuals. There are thousands of people around the world who practice Islam and the religion has helped them to conquer their difficult times. In addition to it Islam acts as an

example for today's world and give a sense of living to the people around the world.

4. CATEGORIES OF CONCEPT OF ISLAM:

Concept of Islam is divided into two categories:



4.1 THEORETIC CONCEPT OF ISLAM:

The theoretic concept of Islam denotes the basic beliefs that Islam relies on. These six articles of faith are the main doctrines of Islam. All Muslims believe in the following:

Oneness of God:
There is no God except Allah.

Angels of God:
Angels are Pure and spiritually obedient creatures.

The divine revelation
Allah has sent revelations for guidance of mankind.

Resurrection of death and day of judgement.
Belief in death, hell or heaven.

Messengers of Allah.
All messengers are sent by Allah for guidance

Preordainment (Qadar)
Muslim belief that everything is in control of Allah

4.2 PRACTICAL CONCEPT OF ISLAM:

Islam teaches practical concepts through core pillars such as Tauheed which means belief in the oneness of Allah, Namaz which is daily praying to Allah five times, Roza which is fasting. Moreover, it includes Zakat meaning giving money to the poor and Hajj which is pilgrimage to Makkah.

Tauheed

Namaz

Roza

Zakat

Hajj

5 SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM:

There are several salient features of Islam which make it ~~dia~~ distinguished from the other religions. Some of them are as follows:

5.1 SIMPLICITY AND RATIONALISM:

One of the unique characteristics of Islam is its simplicity. Islam provides guidance to the individuals which can be understood by any ~~and~~

individual, Muslim or Non-Muslim. Moreover, ~~the~~ Islam is free from any myths and difficult rituals. The pillars of Islam are simple and can be easily acted upon by any individual. Islam also teaches individuals to not exceed the practices in the religion and also live the life of the world.

|| Don't excess in your religion ||

- Surah Maidah Ayat 171 ||

5.2 COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE:

Islam provides guidance for every step of human life. From child birth to the man's death, Islam has guided knowledge for each step. ~~The religion~~ It guides in every aspect of a Muslim's personal, social, moral and spiritual conduct. It offers principles for justice, compassion, worship and daily living. By following Islamic teachings, individuals and societies can achieve balance, peace and purpose in both worldly and hereafter life.

5.3 UNIVERSALITY AND HUMANISM:

Islam is the religion for all mankind. It is universal and it is equal for all the individuals around the world. Moreover, Islam promotes humanity for all mankind. It has taught the rights ~~and duties for~~ of the non-Muslims as well. Therefore, it is the religion of all the universe.

|| Surely the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most pious. ||

(Surah Hujurat - Ayat 13) ||

5.4 BALANCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY:

Islam promotes a balanced relationship between the individual and society. It grants individual freedom, rights and responsibilities, while also emphasizing collective duties such as zakat and jihad. This harmony ensures personal development alongside social justice, making it a salient feature of Islamic teachings.

5.5 PERMANENCE AND CHANGE:

Islam combines permanence with adaptability. Unlike other religions, the teachings of Islam remain unchanged. However, Islam allows change through Ijtihad - independent reasoning, enabling scholars to ~~at~~ apply timeless principles to evolving circumstances, ensuring relevance in every era.

5.6 HOPE AND TRUST IN ALLAH:

Islam gives deep hope and trust in Allah, ~~encouraging~~ encouraging believers to remain positive during hardships and grateful in ease. It teaches that Allah's mercy is greater than any sin and that sincere prayers, patience and faith can lead to guidance, support and eventual relief.

Donot lose hope nor be
sad

— Surah Al Imran
Ayat 139

5.7 ISLAM PROMOTES HUMANITY:

Islam strongly promotes humanity by advocating kindness, compassion and justice for all. It emphasizes helping the needy, respecting others regardless of faith and upholding human dignity. Through teachings of mercy and fairness, Islam builds a society based on mutual respect, care and universal human values.

6. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Islam is a complete balanced way of life that guides both individual conduct and societal organization. Its preserved teachings, rational principles and universal message offers peace to the ~~the~~ world.