

ISLAMIC STUDIES ASSIGNMENT

Date 20 March 2025

Q. What is Islam? Elaborate salient features of Islam. (20)

• INTRODUCTION

Islam is an arabic word which literally means submission. It comes from the word "sala" which means peace. Islam means to submit one's desires to the will of Allah. Dr.

Hamidullah defines Islam as "monotheist teen revealed upon prophet Muhammad PBUH."

Islam is a universal teen. It is one of the oldest religions in the world. Islam was revealed to the prophet PBUH in the form of Holy Quran. ~~It is called a universal teen~~

• CONCEPT OF ISLAM

Islam is called as a universal religion because it guides us in every aspect of life. It is for the entire mankind. It does not discriminate ~~bet~~ among people or genders. It applies to everyone and provides guidance and rights upon those who believe on it and even non-believers. Quran says in surah Kaafiron:

"For you is your religion, and for me is my religion." 109: 06

Islam is not confined to a specific geography either. Nor it is limited to a certain time period. Islam ~~new~~ is a complete faith and it revolves around worshipping Allah. The belief

system of Islam is constituted of 5 pillars which are prayer, zakat, fasting, Hajj and faith in Allah.

SALIENT FEATURES

① Tauheed; Essence of Islam

Allama Shibli Nomani in his book 'Sirat un Nabi' says that "Islam is like a fort and the gateway to that fort is ~~also~~ tauheed." Tauheed is the belief in oneness of Allah. It is the first part of Kalmas, where the believer asserts that there is ~~only~~ ~~one~~ no god but Allah. It is the core belief of Islam that there is only one god. He does not have any heirs or children nor is He the child or heir of anyone. Belief in oneness of Allah is the foundation of Islam.

② SEAL OF PROPHETS

The second part of the Kalma talks about the finality of Prophethood. It says that Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last messenger of Allah. That after Him there shall be no other Prophet and that his teachings in Sunnah and Hadith are final for all mankind. Quran says in Surah Ahzab:

Muhammad (PBUH) is not the father of any of your men, He is the messenger of Allah

and the seal of the Prophets" [33:40]

Allah sent the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to be a role model for all Muslims. His sunnah teaches us about how to deal with different aspects of life, the rules of trade, how to treat companions and minors. In short his teachings are all encompassing. Surah Ahzab describes the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as an excellent example for all believers.

③ DIGNITY FOR MANKIND

Before the advent of Islam, the world was full of all evils. There were all kinds of social evils and people worshipped idols. Islam gave dignity to all mankind regardless of their ~~authority~~ or status or gender. Islam held that all those who believe are equal in the eyes of Allah. In his last sermon the Holy Prophet reinforced that no Arab has superiority over a black and no black is superior to an Arab. All are equal and brothers to each other. Islam believes in the rights of everyone regardless of sex, ~~gen~~ caste or creed. Quran says in Surah Baqarah that there is no compulsion in Islam. All are free to practice their own beliefs.

④ COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE:

Islam is a complete code of life. It guides in every aspect of life. In worldly matters as well as individual.

matters. Islam provides a complete guidebook in individual life, from the birth of a child to his upbringing. Islam has provided guidance on all matters. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an idol for all Muslims, his characteristics can be used in characterbuilding of young children so they can grow up to be model individuals. Moreover, the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an exemplary source of good traits and practices that one should adopt. His dealings in trade, from his sunnah about the ~~rights~~ of teachings of family life and his emphasis on seeking knowledge are all traits that one should endeavor to emulate in themselves.

Moreover, his teachings and practices in ~~how to~~ ~~his~~ social and political affairs are examples that one could use to guide themselves by. The military strategies devised by the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the foundation of Masjid-e-Nabawi which was also used as a hub of knowledge, his diplomatic skills with other heads of state, and his conduct towards his subjects can be used as a guiding principle for all Muslims in various roles.

⑤ RELIGION OF HUMANITY

Islam promotes humanity above all in all its practices. ~~That~~ ^{These} basic pillars of Islam is the act of giving charity (Zakat).
Suraah Baqarah states:

"Muslims are those who give wealth in spite of love for it." [2:177]

It encourages Muslims to give more to those who are less ~~un~~fortunate. This strengthens the social fabric of the society and unity among the community. Islam also promotes inclusivity and unity among different people and ~~the~~ discourages discrimination as the Prophet stated in his last sermon. Moreover, Islam also promotes social work and gives rights to those who are vulnerable like minorities, children, animals and even the environment.

6) RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Islam gave rights to women which was unheard of in the Arab world ridden by social evils. The Holy Prophet ~~also~~ ~~gave~~ always told his companions to respect their wives as equal partners and laid down their rights as to rights of inheritance, the right of allowance. The teachings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) and Quran laid down the foundation of modern feminine rights that are advocated for all around the world.

7) SOCIAL WELFARE

Islam promotes the social welfare system wherein those that are less fortunate are entitled to charity or ~~zakat~~. It is obligatory on every Muslim, according

to their stature, to give back to the community

③ ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Sheriah consists of the teachings of Quran and sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It is a complete system that governs all aspects of life from personal conduct, business dealings and to the criminal justice system. The Sheriah lays down rules for all. Thereafter, Islam makes a whole justice system, among social and political systems, that is based on the divine teachings of Allah. ~~and~~ ~~are~~ these teachings promote the values of honesty, fairness and justice. One example is the principle of criminal justice where the Quran says in surah Al-Maidah: "whoever kills a soul it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely". [5:32]

This is reflective of the value Islam places on human life and how the justice system should be built to make sure no innocent should be deprived of it.

• CONCLUSION

The salient Features of Islam paint a

picture of ~~harmony~~ advocating for harmony and peace among all. It encompasses all worldly matters that could guide humans in their personal and worldly matters and make them an upstanding individual of a society.
