

Q.1. What is the meaning and concept of Islam?

Answer:

A. Introduction

Islam is one of the major monotheistic religions in the world, followed by over a billion people across the globe. The word "Islam" is derived from the Arabic root "S-L-M" "ف-ي-ل", which means peace, submission and surrender to the will of Allah (SWT). However, Islam is not confined to personal belief or ritual worship alone—it offers a complete way of life, guiding its followers in spiritual, ethical, legal, social and even economic matters. At its core, Islam emphasizes the Oneness of God (Tauheed), Prophethood (Risalah), Holy Books (Kutub) and the Day of Judgement (Akhirah). Alongside these beliefs, Islam is also practiced through five key obligations known as the Five Pillars of Islam: the declaration of faith (Shahadah), prayer (Salat), fasting in Ramadhan (Sawm), giving charity (Zakat), and pilgrimage to Makkah (Hajj). These pillars form the practical framework of a Muslim's life and serve to strengthen faith, discipline, and community bonds. By understanding these essential concepts, one can gain a deeper appreciation for the faith of Islam and the values it promotes—such as justice, compassion, and spiritual balance. Thus, Islam is not only a religion but a complete way of life in every aspect of

existence.

B. ~~What~~ is Meaning of Islam

a, Literal Meaning of Islam

The old name of Islam was Din-e-Hanif; which means the worshippers of one God. Islam means submission and surrender to the moral imperatives of One and Only God, and peace with His Creatures. In Islamic terminology, submission means to comply with orders of God, whereas, surrender means to submit oneself voluntarily to God.

Ayat: "The Quran refers to Islam as 'the paths of peace,' SUBUL-AL-SALAM' (5:16) Al-Maidah

This verse highlights the true spirit of Islam - a path that leads to peace. The phrase "ways of peace" refers to the journey that Islam offers towards spiritual tranquility, harmony, and well-being; both in this life and the hereafter. Islam is described as the divine guidance that leads people who seek Allah towards peace.

b, Secular Meaning of Islam

According to Merriam Webster, Islam is defined as: "The religious faith of Muslims including belief in Allah as the sole deity and Muhammad as His prophet".

c, Islamic Meaning of Islam

Islamic meaning of Islam is: The way of life (deen) that Allah Almighty has revealed for humanity so they may attain peace and success in this world and the Hereinafter.

C. Lexicology of Word Islam

The word Islam is derived from the word SA-LA-MA, which means peace and submission. And this submission will only give peace to a true believer. In other words Islam is the road that takes individuals to submission to Allah and through this submission, peace is attained.

D. Opposite of Islam

The opposite of Islam is KAFARA or KUFR. Kufr means rejection; When one rejects the Supremacy of Allah, and the power of God. Those who indulge in kufr - rejecting submission to Allah - leads themselves to destruction in both, this world and the hereafter. In short, kufr is opposition to God, while, Islam is submission to God.

E. Concept of Islam

"Today, I have perfected your religion for you; I completed my favour upon you; and chosen Islam as your religion."
(Maidah: 3)

This ayat is a powerful reminder that Islam is a complete code of life and it encapsulates the complete concept of Islam.

1. 'Today I have perfected your religion for you'
 - This means that Islam, as a way of life and complete system of guidance, has

reached its final and complete form. No new rulings or laws were to be added after this. Allah had completed the guidance necessary for human beings to live righteous, balanced lives.

2. "Completed My favor upon you"

The favour here refers to the gift of divine guidance through Islam, the Quran and the Holy Prophet (PBUH). It is a spiritual blessing, signifying that the Muslim Ummah had now received the full message of Allah.

3. "And have chosen Islam as your religion (deen)"

Allah affirms that Islam - which means submission to His will - is ^{the} chosen way for humankind. "Deen" here refers not just to religious rituals, but a complete way of life encompassing worship, ethics, law, and personal conduct.

Conclusion - This verse confirms that Islam is comprehensive, perfected system of guidance that is timeless and universal. It requires submission to Allah (SWT), encourages peace, promotes justice, and provides practical solutions for life. The declaration in Surah Al-Maidah (5:3), shows that Islam is not just one religion among others - it is final, complete, and fully approved path for humanity to achieve peace with themselves, others, and their Creator.

F. Key Elements of the Concept of Islam

A. Spiritual Belief System.

Islam teaches six articles of faith: Belief in Allah, His angels, His revealed books, His messengers, the Day of Judgement, and divine decree (Qadar). These beliefs provide a spiritual foundation for understanding human purpose, destiny, and accountability.

B. Practical Application - The Five Pillars.

Islam is practiced through five fundamental acts:

- **Shahadah (Faith):** Declaring there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.

- **Salah (Prayer):** Offering five daily prayers, strengthening a Muslim's connection with Allah.

- **Zakat (Charity):** Giving a portion of one's wealth to the needy.

- **Saum (Fasting in Ramadhan):** Encouraging self-control, empathy, and spiritual purification.

- **Hajj (Pilgrimage):** A once-in-a-lifetime journey to Makkah, symbolizing unity and devotion.

C. Universal Guidance:

Islam is not confined to a specific race, culture, or nation. It is a universal religion for all of humanity.

5. Moral and Social Framework.

Islam provides detailed guidelines for personal conduct, family life, business ethics, governance, and community relations. It encourages modesty, respect for parents, kindness to neighbors, and care for the environment. In Islam, worship is not confined to the mosque - every good action done with the right intention is considered an act of worship.

6. Conclusion.

To conclude, Islam is a religion that aims to establish inner and outer peace by guiding individuals to submit sincerely to the will of Allah. The concept of Islam goes beyond rituals - it is a comprehensive way of life that offers spiritual, ethical, and social guidance. At its core lies the belief in the Oneness of Allah (Tawheed), and it is based on the six articles of faith: Belief in Allah, His angels, His revealed books, His messengers, the Day of Judgement, and divine destiny (Qadar). In essence, Islam is a religion that brings peace through submission, purpose through guidance, and balance through faith and action. It is not just a belief system but a complete moral, spiritual, and social framework for individual and collective well-being.