

KOMAL WAHEED

MTWTFSS

DATE: _____

ASSIGNMENT

QUESTION

What is Islam and explain the salient features of Islam?

ANSWER

1. INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM:

In an era marked by moral confusion, social inequality, and rising materialism, the search for a just and meaningful way of life has never been more urgent. Islam answers this call not as a limited ritualistic faith but as a complete and dynamic system governing all aspects of human life. Islam is not confined to acts of worship but extends to everyday conduct, interpersonal relations, economic justice and state governance. It provides a

balanced framework that integrates faith with action, individual responsibility with collective welfare.

2: DEFINITION AND MEANING OF ISLAM:

First and foremost, understanding the meaning and definition of Islam is essential to grasp its purpose and essence.

2a) Literal meaning:

The literal meaning of Islam is derived from the Arabic root Sin-Lam-Mim (س-ل-م), which conveys meanings such as peace (Salaam), submission (istislam), and safety (salamah). Literally, Islam means "to attain peace by submitting to Allah". The linguistic basis reveals the dual essence of Islam — external submission and

internal peace.

2b) Contextual meaning:

Furthermore, in the religious context, Islam refers to the complete submission and obedience to the will of Allah (SWT) as conveyed through His Last Prophet (PBUH).

It is not confined to spiritual beliefs or rituals; rather it is a comprehensive system governing belief (aqeedah), worship (ibadah), social relations (mu'asharat), transactions (mu'amalat), and moral conduct (akhlak).

2c) Definition according to Quran:

Moreover, the Quran clearly presents Islam as the only valid religion acceptable to Allah.

As the Quran explains:

"Indeed, the religion in the

sight of Allah is Islam."

~ Surah Aal-e-Imran (3:19)

2d) Islam according to Prophet (ﷺ):

Additionally, Prophet (PBUH) explained Islam clearly in his sayings and practices.

In the famous Hadith Jibril,

Prophet (PBUH) mentions:

"Islam is to testify that there is not god but Allah, and Muhammad (ﷺ) is His messenger, to perform salah, pay zakat, fast in Ramadan, and perform Hajj if able."

~ Sahih Muslim

2e) According to Scholars:

Renowned Islamic Scholars

have defined Islam in ways that

reflect its depth and dynamism.

Imam Al-Ghazali explained that,

"Islam is the outward submission
to what the Prophet (ﷺ)
brought, while Iman (faith) is
the inner belief in it."

~ Imam Al-Ghazali

Allama Iqbal, the philosopher-
poet, considered Islam not just
a religion but "a revolution that
transforms the soul and society".

These definitions highlight Islam's
nature as a holistic and reformative
system.

3: CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF MAN AND ISLAM:

Fundamentally, Islam presents
a comprehensive and dignified
view of human nature. It regards
man as the finest creation of

Allah (SWT), as stated in the Quran:

لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم

"Indeed, We created humans in the best form."

~ Surah At-Tin (95:4)

While other religions differ in their perception of man. Christianity often portrays man as inherently sinful.

This is reflected in the statement:

"My kingdom is not of this world,"

highlighting Christianity emphasis on the afterlife and the pursuit of spiritual salvation through detachment from worldly desires.

In contrast, Western thought tends to focus on the material world, summed up in the idea:

"My kingdom is of this world alone."

Islam, however, does not

separate the spiritual from the worldly. This balanced perspective is beautifully expressed in the Quranic verse:

"Our Lord, give us in this world what is good and in the hereafter what is good, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire."

~ Surah Al-Baqarah (2:201)

Thus, Islam believes man is born pure with the potential to grow, repent and reform. It encourages active engagement with the world while remaining mindful of moral and spiritual responsibilities.

4: SALIENT FEATURES OF ISLAM:

Now that Islam has been defined, the focus shifts to exploring the core features that elevate it as a complete and unparalleled way of life.

a) Belief in Tawheed

(Monotheism):

To begin with, the central concept of Islam is Tawheed—the absolute oneness of Allah. Tawheed means that Allah is the sole creator, sustainer, and ruler of the universe, and no one shares His divinity or authority. The Quran states:

قل هو الله احد

"Say: He is Allah, the One and Only" (Surah Ikhlas)

This belief is the axis around which all Islamic beliefs and practices revolve.

b) Universality of Message:

Secondly, Islam is a universal religion sent for all of mankind and not restricted to any tribe, race, or region. The Quran mentions:

"And We have not sent you [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds."

~ Al-Quran (21:107)

c) Finality of Prophethood:

A key belief in Islam is the finality of Prophethood. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is the last messenger, and no prophet will come after him. The Quran affirms:

"Muhammad (ﷺ) is not the father of any of your men, but (He is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allah has full knowledge of all things." ~ Al-Quran (33:41)

d) Comprehensive system of life:

Islam offers a complete code of life that covers all dimensions — spiritual, legal, economic, social, and political. The Quranic verse 3 of Surah Al-Maida states:

"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."

~ Surah Al-Maida (5:3)

e) Rationality and Simplicity:

Additionally, Islam is a faith aligned with human nature and reason. It does not demand blind belief, instead it invites reflection, thought and understanding. Imam Ghazali observed that:

"Islam is the religion of reason; nothing in it is beyond understanding."

f) Justice and equality:

Moreover, Islam lays a strong emphasis on justice and equality among all human beings. In this last Sermon, the Prophet (PBUH) stated that:

"An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab." ~ last Sermon

g) Emphasis on knowledge:

Importantly, Islam strongly encourages the pursuit of knowledge.

The first revelation to the Prophet (PBUH) began with the word 'Iqra' (Read), understanding the importance of learning. Allah (SWT) says:

اقرا باسم ربك الذي خلق

"Read in the name of your Lord who created."

~ Surah Al-Alaq (96:1)

h) Protection of Human Rights:

Lastly, Islam safe guards the fundamental rights of every human being. These include the rights to life, property, dignity, religion, and intellect. Islamic law is based on these objectives, known as Maqasid-al-Shari'ah.

5. CRITICAL Analysis:

While Islam presents a complete and balanced system for individual and societal well-being, its effectiveness relies on sincere understanding and proper implementation.

In many Muslim societies today, a gap exists between Islamic ideals and actual practice—often distorted by cultural customs, sectarian biases, and political misuse. Universal values like justice and equality are sometimes lost to rigid

interpretations. Yet when followed in its true spirit, Islam remains fully capable of addressing modern ethical, social, and moral challenges. The issue lies not in the teachings of Islam, but in the failure of its followers to uphold them.

6. CONCLUSION:

To conclude, Islam is a complete and timeless system that shapes every aspect of life with wisdom, balance, and purpose. It uplifts the soul, guides the intellect, and builds a just society rooted in moral clarity. Islam offers not just rules, but a vision — one that brings peace to the heart and harmony to the world.