

Q.3 What is the difference between Deen and Religion? Describe the importance of Deen in human life with arguments?

Answers:-

1-Introduction

The difference between deen and religion is more than just words - there is a meaningful gap between the two. These terms vary in purpose, sources, methods, and application. These terms vary when comparing them, deen focuses on man's relationship with God and his fellow creatures, whereas, religion mainly focuses on one's connection with God alone. Moreover, deen is seen as a complete code of life that influences every part of a person's existence - spiritually, morally, ~~and~~ socially, politically, legally, and economically - making it broad and all-encompassing. Religion, on the flip side is defined as a set of thoughts, practices, and rituals that focus on the spiritual and theological aspects of human existence, highlighting its narrow scope. Now, travelling the need for deen in human life, unequivocally, a man needs to understand the purpose of deen, to uncover the mysteries of the world, and to live a dignified life. It takes an individual from darkness to light, and offers inner healing for problems like depression, hopelessness, and emptiness. Along with that, the teachings of deen act as a shield against

all evils. In short, deen is complete and practical code of life that leads to a balanced, peaceful, and successful life.

2-Difference Between Deen and Religion

Deen	Aspects	Religion
A complete code of life.	<u>Definition</u>	A set of beliefs that people largely believe
Judgement, Obedience, Honour	<u>Lexicology</u>	Beliefs in God, divine Retribution, spiritual matters.
Dominant, Elevated, Supreme law	<u>Dominance</u>	Often a private belief system
A complete code of life governing all aspects of existence	<u>Nature</u>	A set of spiritual beliefs often focused on personal devotion
Unique and only way of life	<u>Uniqueness</u>	Common place and amenable
Divine, revealed by Allah SWT	<u>Divinity</u>	Manmade, shaped by human culture and interpretation
Monotheistic	<u>Theistic View</u>	Polytheistic
Targets both this world and the hereafter	<u>Focus</u>	Focuses either on this world or the hereafter, but rarely both.

Deen	Aspects	Religion
Develops reason and intellect, promotes rationality	<u>Intellect</u>	Maybe hostile to science when contradicting to religious views.
Places emphasis on responsibilities and obligations	<u>Responsibilities</u>	Mainly focuses on personal benefits and spiritual well-being.
Has power to challenge fate through faith and action	<u>Approach to Fate</u>	Often views fate as pre determined and unchangeable.
Patience through fasting, perseverance, punctuality in 1 Namaz,	<u>Benefits</u>	Sense of purpose, Belief in God and divine retribution, Social Order, guidance, Morality, and Equality

3. Understanding Deen in Light of Quran

In addition, Deen is an Arabic word used in the Holy Quran to convey distinct meaning: law, judgement, way of life, and submission to Allah. The Islam is more than a religion; it is a deen which provides humanity with comprehensive laws for both individual and community affairs. So Allah Almighty

used the term Deen for Islam.

Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Quran:

"This day, I have perfected your Deen for you; completed my favour upon you; and have chosen Islam as your Deen"
(AlMaidah: 3)

In this verse, the word deen reflects that along with providing a belief system and notion of worship to meet the spiritual and metaphysical demands of individual life, Islam also encompasses all spheres of life - social, political, economic and legal regulations and cultural standards for the benefit of the society as a whole.

4. Importance of Deen in Human Life

Going the ladder down, deen is undoubtably an important element of human life. Here, light has been shed on some points explaining the importance of deen in human life.

a. Provides guidance to Mankind.

In succession, Deen-e-Islam guides humanity to the path of light. Before the arrival of Islam, people were morally corrupt and ignorant.

Islam taught people about the criteria of right and wrong, leading humanity to the road of guidance.

Allah SWT says in the Holy Quran:

"Surely this Quran guides to that which is most upright and gives good news to the believers who do good that they shall have a greater reward" (17:9) AL-ISRA.

b, Provides a clear message to mankind

Along with that, Deen gives a clear message to mankind, showing them correct path. It provides humanity a guidance from darkness to light, from oppression to the light of knowledge, wisdom and righteousness.

Allah says in the Quran:

"Alif-Lam-Ra (This is) a Book, whose verses are made decisive, then are they made plain, from the wise; All-aware." (11:1) AL-HUD.

c, **Spiritual Cure of Modern Man**

In addition to this, Deen-e-Islam functions as a spiritual cure for modern man, providing comprehensive solutions to soul illness. Unfortunately, in today's world people frequently experience fear, anxiety and feelings of emptiness, regardless of their financial belongings.

In this regard, Deen offers a spiritual remedy in form of worship.
As Allah says in the Quran:

"And we reveal of the Quran—that which is a healing and a mercy to the believers..." (17:82)
Al-Isra.

d) A shield against evil.

Likewise, the Quran develops fear of God and reverence and love for Him, thus it guards those against all evils, because a true believer will never go against the orders of Allah. Therefore, deen act as a shield against the evil.

As Allah says in the Quran:

"It is Quran in Arabic without any crookedness therein, in order that they may guard against evil" (39:28).

e) A source of Wisdom and Knowledge
Lastly, the book of deen consists of unsurpassable wisdom and knowledge. As Allah says in the Holy Quran.

"Yasin, by the Quran, full of wisdom" (36:1-2)

The wisdom of Quran is really insightful, as it provides knowledge regarding every aspect of human life.

5. Conclusion

To conclude, the difference between deen and religion is not just semantic; rather, these terms represent essential distinctions in meaning, scope, goal, source, application, and approach. Essentially, deen leads a man towards guidance; it provides holistic remedies for ailments of the soul. Also, deen's teachings act as a guard against evil acts, and it is a source of wisdom and knowledge. In a nutshell, deen is a complete code of life.

Q. NO 5. Define the Meaning of Prayer and its different categories. Also describe the Spiritual, Moral and Social Impacts of Prayers.

Answer.

1. Introduction

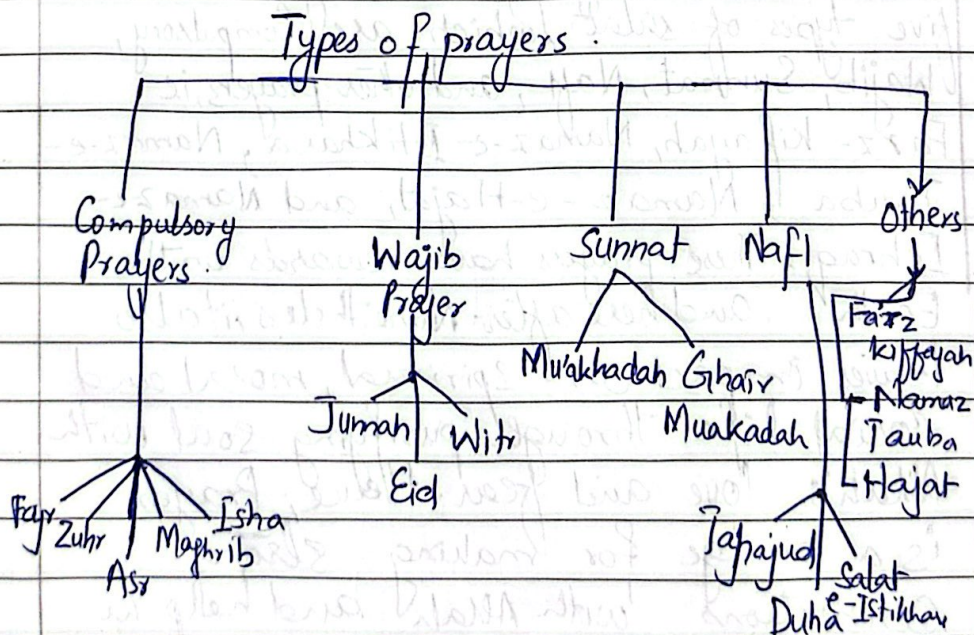
Prayer is a way in which the individual develops strong connections with Allah, and seeks acts of kindness in spiritual and worldly matter. In Islam, prayer is known for Salah, one of the most important pillars of Islam. The term "Prayer" means offering Salah, making a strong connection with Allah and asking for His mercy. There are five types of salat, which are Compulsory, Wajib, Sunnat, Nafl, and other prayers, i.e. Farz-kifayah, Namaz-e-Istikhara, Namaz-e-Tauba, Namaz-e-Hajat, and Namaz-e-Ishraq. These prayers have rewards on the Earth and here after. Nonetheless, it also leaves impact on spiritual, moral and social life through purifying soul with Allah's love and fear. Hence, Prayer is a bridge for making strong connections with Allah and help in different aspects of life.

2. Meaning of Prayer

Prayer or Salat is the obligatory ritual worship in Islam in which

Pray to God five times a day. In Arabic, the root word of Salat is "Sa-LA-MA". It is derived from two meanings: one signifies "bonding" and the other "stretching". The idea of bonding refers to the spiritual connection between a person and Allah (SWT). The concept of stretching refers to the physical actions involved in Salat - standing, bowing, and prostrating before God five times a day. For these reasons, this ritual act of worship is called Salat.

3- Different Types of Prayers



a, Compulsory Prayers.

All five daily prayers are compulsory or Farz for every muslim. Missing a prayer is a serious matter, and one is required to make up for it.

b, Wajib Prayers

Jummah, Eid, and Witr prayers are classified as Wajib in Islamic teachings. While they are not Farz (compulsory), but they are still considered obligatory.

As Allah says in the Quran:

"And seek help through patience and prayer" (2:45)

c) Sunnat.

i) Sunnat Mu'akkadah

It refers to emphasized Sunnah prayers - those which Holy Prophet (PBUH) consistently performed, and strongly encouraged.

(ii) Sunnat Ghair Mu'akkadah

It refers to non-emphasized Sunnah prayer - those which Holy Prophet (PBUH) offered occasionally but also left sometimes.

d, Nafl Prayers.

Nafl Prayers are voluntary acts of worship that Muslims may choose to perform. They are not obligatory, and there is flexibility in these prayers. Examples include Tahajjud, Duha, and Salat-al-Istikhara.

e. Other Namaz.

- Farz Kifayya - A collective obligation where if some members of the community perform it, others exempt (e.g. Jannazah)
- Namaz-e-Tauba - A prayer offered to sincerely apologize from Allah for one's sins.
- Namaz-e-Hajat - A prayer offered to ask Allah for the fulfillment of a specific need.
- Namaz-e-Ishraq - a voluntary prayer offered shortly after sunrise, about 15-20 minutes after fajr.

4. Shedding Light on the importance of "Prayer" in the light of the Holy Quran.

Allah says in the Quran:

"And establish prayer, give Zakat, and bow with those who bow" (2:43).

In this verse, Allah commands the believers to fulfill essential duties of Islam, one of which is Prayer.

1. Establish Prayer (Salah): This means to perform the five daily prayers consistently, sincerely, and correctly, as a form of submission and connection to Allah.

On the other place Allah says in the Quran:

"Woe to the believers"

"Who are neglectful of their prayers"
(107:4-5).

In this verse, Allah warns those who claim to be believers but fail to give their prayers (Salah) the attention and care. The verse emphasises that Prayer is a central and vital act of worship, and neglecting it reflects a lack of commitment to the faith. It reminds that believers who are offering their prayers with sincerity and devotion, are faithful to Allah.

5. Impacts of Prayers

a) Spiritual Impacts

Prayer brings a deep sense of closeness to Allah, as expressed in the verse:
"Verily in remembrance of Allah, the Heart finds peace" (13:28).

For a Muslim, Salah brings out the feeling of presence of Allah. For example, in countries like Japan, many people suffer from depression and isolation due to living in solitude. However, through Salah a Muslim constantly feels the presence of Allah. When a Muslim begins the prayer by saying "Allahu Akbar", it signifies that they are in direct

communication with Allah, feeling His nearness and guidance. This closeness provides comfort and a sense of not being alone, no matter the circumstances. This reflection also instills hope, as it serves as a reminder of Allah's mercy and forgiveness, motivating the individual to strive for betterment and continue seeking His guidance.

b) Moral Impacts

The moral impacts of Islam are deeply reflected in the practice of Salah (prayer). As stated in the Hadith:

"Verily, Salat ~~serves~~ saves from evil and sin"
(Sahih Muslim)

Prayer acts as a spiritual shield, protecting individuals from immoral behaviour, harmful actions, and negative influences. By performing Salah, a Muslim regularly connects with Allah, which helps purify their character and develop inner strength. Prayer encourages self-discipline, humility, and sincerity, shaping a person's moral character. It provides a constant reminder to uphold virtues such as honesty, kindness and gratitude. The physical movements in prayer - bowing, standing and prostrating - reflect a

Symbolic surrender to Allah, reinforcing a sense of gratitude and responsibility. Through this regular purification, Salat nurtures an individual's inner peace and guides them towards good conduct, ultimately helping to cultivate a morally upright life in accordance with Islamic Principles.

C) Social Impacts

Prayer plays a significant role in connecting Muslims to one another. By attending the masjid five times a day, a Muslim becomes aware of his community and its need. This regular interaction fosters a sense of unity, where individuals are not only engaged in worship but also in caring for one another, knowing what is happening around them. In contrast to the loneliness and isolation often experienced in Western societies, the communal aspect of prayer in Islam prevents solitude, as every Muslim, even if not offering prayer five times a day, joins the community for the Friday congregational prayer. This sense of belonging is one of the social impacts of Prayer, as it provides opportunities to discuss social issues, share problems and offer support to each other. Thus, prayers have deep impact on social

level which results in social cohesion and stability.

6. Conclusion

In a nutshell, prayers help individuals make strong connections with God. All world religions have different kinds of prayer but in Islam, it is known as one of the important pillars of Islam is Salah, which is divided into 5 types. However, prayer has a deep social, moral and spiritual impact, creating fear of Allah, closeness to Allah, social stability and unity. Thus, prayers keeps muslims connected to Allah and makes strong connection with Allah.